



THE INDEPENDENT

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Monet REVIEW/FRONT



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IN THE FRIDAY REVIEW + MUSIC

Beef on bone ban must stay, says health chief

By COLIN BROWN and CHARLES ARTHUR

HOPES FOR an early end to the beef-on-the-bone ban have been dashed by the new Chief Medical Officer, who has warned ministers that unbanned beef could still pass "human BSE" to the public.

Professor Liam Donaldson's report to the Agriculture Minister, Nick Brown, will come as a serious blow to the beef industry, which was struggling to regain its £500m export market after the ending last November of the European Union's ban on British beef.

Professor Donaldson's recommendation also presents a test of strength for Mr Brown, who has the final say on whether to continue the ban imposed 13 months ago. A decision by Mr Brown to lift the ban would echo the worst behaviour of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (MAFF) in the BSE crisis earlier this decade, when it frequently rode roughshod over Department of Health recommendations.

Professor Donaldson, who was appointed in September, warns that there is still a danger of maternal transmission of BSE from cow to calf, and recommends that no immediate moves are made to lift the ban on sales of beef on the bone. He concludes that although the present risk from eating unbanned beef is near zero, lifting the ban would introduce a risk, which he could not countenance.

In the past three years, 35 people in Britain have died of "new variant" Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease, believed to have been caused by eating BSE-infected food. Most of the victims have been under 40, and scientists suggest that the source of the infection was food eaten before various offals were excluded from food in 1990. Nobody knows how many people will eventually succumb to the fatal disease.

The beef-on-the-bone ban was introduced in December 1997 after the Spongiform Encephalopathy Advisory Committee (SEAC) reported that



British butchers will still not be allowed to sell T-bone steaks, as the ban on selling beef on the bone is set to stay

David Rose

there was a very small risk of infection through the nervous tissues, called dorsal root ganglia, in the spinal column of joints of beef on the bone. But the committee did not directly recommend the ban: "Among our recommendations was to do nothing," one member insisted last night.

Professor Donaldson's more cautious approach has delighted Whitehall critics of MAFF, which had threatened to shelve

the proposal for an independent Food Standards Agency until it was rescued by the intervention of Tony Blair. Margaret Beckett, Leader of the House, said last night that a draft Bill to set up the agency will be published next Wednesday.

The Bill will allow a flat charge of about £2 a week to be raised for its running costs from 600,000 food outlets. It should reach the statute book in July, around the time that the

BSE inquiry is due to deliver its findings.

Professor Donaldson's report will be seen as evidence that he will be a champion for consumers' safety against pressure from the farming lobby, and that the Government is serious about tackling the MAFF influence over food safety. In future, he will report to the Department of Health and the Food Standards Agency.

The Chief Medical Officer's

latest advice is not, however, based on any new scientific evidence. Since last week but the continuation of the ban was not discussed. The committee last considered the matter in December, after which Sir John Pattison, its chairman, said any decision about continuing the ban should be "based on the science" - which suggested that the initially small risk had shrunk further. Ministers have yet to agree

a response to Professor Donaldson's report, but senior Whitehall sources said Mr Brown was likely to announce the beef-on-the-bone ban will stay for the foreseeable future.

Though the number of BSE cases in Britain is falling, it is still higher than anywhere else in Europe. In 1998, there were 2,651 cases; the youngest animal to develop it was born in 1996 before new safety measures on farm feed were introduced.

IOC members 'took £70,000' each in vote for games site

By DAVID USBORNE and RICHARD LLOYD PARRY in Nagano

SOME MEMBERS of the International Olympic Committee received payments of more than £70,000 each to vote for Salt Lake City as the 2002 Winter Games venue, it was revealed yesterday.

The IOC vice-president, Dick Pound, told *The Washington Post* that there "is solid, irrefutable evidence" that at least a dozen IOC members or their relatives received cash, gifts or donations from members of the Salt Lake bid committee. Some benefits totalled in excess of \$100,000, he suggested.

"When you see it in black and white, it's pretty blatant stuff, so I don't think the people involved are going to be able to explain it away. But we'll see," Mr Pound said. He is conducting the inquiry by the IOC into corruption allegations. His report will be released in Lausanne on Sunday, and the IOC is expected to recommend the expulsion of between eight and sixteen members.

Yesterday it was announced that Utah's attorney general has begun yet another inquiry into Salt Lake City's bid - the fifth official investigation into the corruption allegations.

The ripples from the Utah probe have now spread to other cities that were previous hosts to the Olympics. Officials in Nagano, Japan, revealed that records of its bid for 1998 Winter Olympics had been incriminated, and the IOC has agreed to give up its tax-exempt status in Switzerland because of the scandal.

The Utah affair first erupted before Christmas with word of murky contributions and scholarships given to IOC



members shortly before they were to vote on the site of the 2002 Olympics at a meeting in Budapest in 1995. The allegations have brought humiliation to Salt Lake City, a mountain metropolis usually associated with the Mormon Church. The US Justice Department may also bring charges.

Details emerged yesterday of lavish hospitality given by Nagano to IOC members in 1991 when it was lobbying for the Winter Games of two years ago. Entertainment extended to members included helicopter rides and lavish dinners with geisha girls in attendance. Among many gifts distributed was an oil painting by a famous Japanese artist worth £16,200 given to Juan Antonio Samaranch, president of the IOC, sources said. Mr Samaranch, however, is exempt from rules limiting the value of gifts, because he is not a voting member. The painting is now hanging on the wall of IOC headquarters, a committee spokesman said yesterday.

To pre-empt any suspicion of bribery in Sydney's successful pitch for next year's summer Games, the state of New South Wales will today release Olympics contracts that had been classified as secret.

Lib Dems' pact with Blair is falling apart

By ANDREW GRICE Political Editor

TONY BLAIR and Paddy Ashdown were struggling last night to keep alive their policy of closer co-operation between their parties after the Liberal Democrat leader's decision to resign. Although they insisted Mr Ashdown's departure would not affect their strategy, senior figures in both parties said privately that it was now in jeopardy.

Cabinet heavyweights who oppose closer relations, including Jack Straw and John Prescott, believe Mr Ashdown's resignation has finally buried any prospect of Mr Blair calling a referendum on electoral reform before the general election. Plans to extend

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the remit of the Cabinet committee of senior Liberal Democrats and Labour ministers will run into the sand. The leaders had hoped it would discuss the single currency and welfare reform. Mr Blair's critics believe that relations with Labour will dominate the leadership contest. A Blairite minister admitted Mr Ash-

down's decision was "bad news", adding: "Tony may have to pull back; he cannot be so far out in front of his party on every issue."

Yesterday Mr Blair told the Cabinet that co-operation with the Liberal Democrats would continue. Earlier he said: "People want a different party politics today. They don't want parties stuck in rigid tribal boundaries."

But Gordon Prentice, Labour MP for Pendle, warned: "We've got this incredible schizophrenic attitude towards them [the Liberal Democrats] where we can fight them on the ground and here at Westminster we are developing policy jointly with them. That cannot survive Paddy Ashdown's departure."

Viagra rules limit sex to once a week on NHS

By JEREMY LAURANCE Health Editor

THE NHS will pay for sex once a week - but only for a narrowly defined group of men with serious disabilities, Frank Dobson, the 58-year-old Health Secretary, announced.

The vast majority of the estimated two million impotent men in Britain will have to pay privately for Viagra, which is expected to cost 25 a pill from chemists, under prescribing guidelines issued yesterday. Even those who qualify for it on the NHS will be rationed to a maximum of one pill a week.

The decision, which also affects all other impotence treatments that have been freely available without limit on the NHS up to now, outraged doc-



Frank Dobson: Rationing

tors, who condemned it as "cruel and unethical". For the first time it has brought the rationing of NHS treatment, which ministers have consistently denied takes place, under the spotlight.

The British Medical Association told GPs to defy the Gov-

ernment and prescribe Viagra to patients in clinical need until the guidelines take effect in six weeks - raising the prospect that thousands of men will get the pills, only to have them withdrawn later. The BMA said it was unacceptable to discriminate among patients, because the same condition had different causes.

Mr Dobson acknowledged the decision had been made on financial grounds, becoming the first health minister openly to admit rationing a drug on the NHS, but said priority had to be given to treatment of cancer and mental illness.

Mr Dobson challenged the BMA to come up with other ways of prescribing Viagra to all without the high costs. Why doctors are angry, page 2

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Gurkhas hunt for missing pupils

THE SEARCH for two 10-year-old girls who disappeared last on Tuesday morning intensified yesterday, with the Gurkhas and specialist police teams drafted in.

Detectives clung to the hope that the girls had gone on a "great adventure". But they confessed concern about the chances of finding the girls alive, with no confirmed sightings of Charlene Lunnion and Lisa Hoodless since they set off for Christchurch School, St Leonard's, near Hastings, East Sussex.

More than 400 officers, military police and Gurkhas from the Princess of Wales Own Regiment in Canterbury searched the town and surrounding rural areas yesterday.

Detective Superintendent Jeremy Paine, of East Sussex Police, said the search was extended to the outskirts of London after several unconfirmed sightings of the two best friends

BY KATE WATSON-SMITH

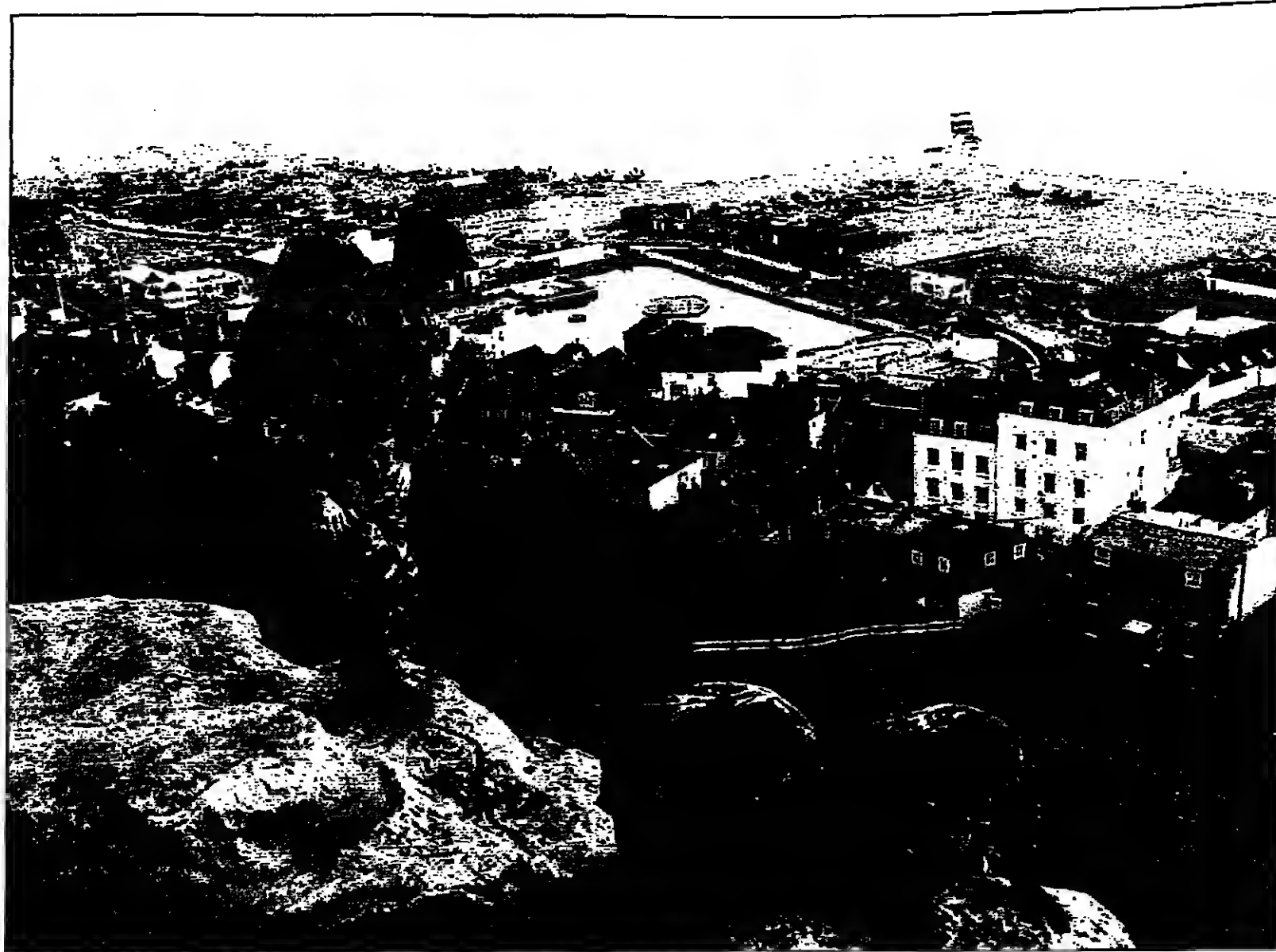
in Plumstead, West Drayton and Ruislip.

Next month is the anniversary of the death of Charlene's mother, Sandra. Her ashes are at a crematorium in Ruislip, west London. The child may have wanted to go and see a plaque dedicated to her memory.

There were also suggestions that Lisa may have been anxious about her home life, but Det Supt Paine refused to elaborate. He disclosed that police were questioning registered paedophiles in the area, as well as investigating claims that the two girls had boasted about running away.

Searches of their houses indicated that they did not take any extra clothes with them. They were thought to be wearing school uniforms when they vanished.

"It could be a great adventure



Gurkhas of the 1st Battalion, Princess of Wales Regiment search clifftops above Hastings for the two girls missing since Tuesday

and they may come back," said Det Supt Paine. "My instinct is that they are in the London area, but as time goes on it gets more and more worrying."

Charlene's father, Keith, a drug and alcohol adviser, said she had very little money, hav-

ing already spent most of her weekly pocket money of £2.50.

Neighbours of the two families said yesterday that they feared the worst. Peter Watson, who regularly saw the two girls on their way to school, said: "It may have started as an adven-

ture but it has gone on too long now."

Nicola Woolcott, who has five children and who has lived in St Leonard's all her life, said: "An adventure would be over by now. They would have wanted their beds, their dinner

and their mothers. We have all thought about running away but most of us come back when it gets dark."

As darkness fell last night the girls' parents were preparing to spend their third night without news of their children.

Det Supt Paine said: "We still don't know if we are dealing with runaways or something more sinister. I must believe they are capable of sustaining themselves away from home for so long because the alternative does not bear thinking about."

Charity giving falls by a third

BY LOUISE JURY

INDIVIDUAL DONATIONS to charity have plunged by almost one-third in the last five years, according to figures revealed yesterday.

The National Council for Voluntary Organisations (NCVO) said donations had dropped by 31 per cent in real terms since 1993 to £4.5bn, despite the fact that a huge majority of people believe it is important to support charities.

Research carried out for the NCVO found that nine out of ten people said it was important to give time and money to charity, but fewer than half had donated cash in the last month. Just 8 per cent had given any time. Nearly half of people in social classes A and B said they would give more if the tax system added to their donation and one-third of 35- to 44-year-olds who do not give would be encouraged to do so by a tax incentive.

Stuart Etherington, the NCVO's chief executive, pleaded with the public to turn good intentions into positive action to avert a crisis in the voluntary sector. He was backed by the Prime Minister who called for "an explosion in giving" - in time as well as money.

Speaking at the NCVO's annual conference in east London yesterday, Tony Blair pledged £73m of government money to encourage and expand volunteering schemes. He further announced the creation of a "new active community unit" to work across government departments, raising the profile of the voluntary sector.

Mr Etherington said the British public had long supported the voluntary sector, but that support had reached a crossroads. "While the vast majority of the population believes it is extremely important to support charities and the work they do, this is not always translated into donations either of time or money," he said.

He said the Government's help was needed and that the volunteering initiatives should foster more involvement by the public but they should be supported by tax breaks. A review of charity tax has been promised for nearly two years.

The Government yesterday awarded £48m to the Millennium Volunteers scheme, which was piloted by the Community Service Volunteers to encourage the involvement of a new generation. A further £25m will encourage volunteer schemes involving older people and the black community.

Leading article, Review, page 3

IN BRIEF

Glitter in court on sex charges

GLAM ROCKER Gary Glitter, 54, appeared in Bristol Crown Court yesterday facing charges of sexual offences involving a girl and 50 charges relating to photos of children. The star, a father of two, spoke only to confirm his name. He was remanded on bail for two months.

Thief jailed after TV-show gaffe

A THIEF was jailed for two years after his victim saw him on television. John Parsons, who stole antiques from Pamela McMahon while helping her move home, became a gay-rights campaigner and was invited on to a chat show. Miss McMahon was watching, and recognised him.

Second Legionnaires' death

HEALTH OFFICIALS are investigating after a second patient died from Legionnaires' disease in a South Wales town. The 59-year-old woman from Aberdare, who has not been named, had been in a critical condition for more than a week at Prince Charles Hospital, Merthyr Tydfil.

Jam jar savers hoard £380m

BRITAIN IS a nation of hoarders with more than £380m stored in jam jars and piggy banks, according to a Gallup survey for Yorkshire Bank published yesterday. But the habit loses the savers at least £4.75m interest every year. One-third of the population have no savings at all.

Scientists cream off £720,000

HUDDERSFIELD UNIVERSITY scientists have won a £720,000 European grant to research how to use natural organisms rather than starches to make yoghurt creamy.

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Paddy Ashdown catches up with coverage of his resignation yesterday before appearing on GMTV John Voos

Call for unity as election kicks off

THE RACE to succeed Paddy Ashdown as Liberal Democrat leader began yesterday despite his attempts to ban campaigning until he stands down in June.

Some senior party members are worried that Mr Ashdown's surprise announcement will create six months of turmoil and distract the party from the May elections to local authorities, the Scottish and Welsh assemblies and the European Parliament poll, which will be Mr Ashdown's swansong.

The Liberal Democrats are urgently drawing up a code of conduct for candidates in the hope of avoiding a damaging display of disunity which could reduce their election prospects.

Baroness Maddock, the party president, who will oversee the election, will urge MPs not to criticise each other or appear together on television and

BY ANDREW GRICE
Political Correspondent

radio programmes, so they cannot be portrayed as rivals.

Potential candidates will be told not to declare their intention to run "formally or informally" until Mr Ashdown has stood down. "We cannot afford the distraction of electioneering for the leadership while the campaign for this year's crucial elections is in progress," said Lady Maddock.

But it was clear yesterday it will be difficult for the Liberal Democrats to hold the line, as "friends" of the candidates eagerly talked up their chances so as not to be stuck in the starting blocks in June.

Some were critical of Mr Ashdown for leaving a six-month vacuum. "I don't understand why he could not have announced his decision as soon

BETTING LIST

LIB-DEM LEADERSHIP		
	William Hill	Ladbrokes
Charles Kennedy	evens	4-5
Nick Harvey	7-2	4-1
Simon Hughes	4-1	5-2
Menzies Campbell	3-1	7-1
Malcolm Bruce	20-1	14-1
Matthew Taylor	20-1	12-1
Alan Beith	33-1	20-1
Paul Tyler	33-1	20-1

as the Euro elections were over," said one potential leadership candidate. "We don't need a six-month campaign."

It emerged yesterday that Mr Ashdown's successor may not be elected by the party's 90,000 members until September. Officials believe there may not be enough time to run a contest between the Euro poll in June and the August summer break. The new leader would then have a "coronation" at the party's annual conference at Harrogate in September.

The Liberal Democrat spring conference, in Edinburgh in March, will inevitably become a "beauty contest" for the candidates. "The important thing is that they don't overtly fight each other, which would damage the party," said one party source.

Only two weeks ago, Mr Ashdown's aides dismissed speculation that he might be forced to resign this year by saying he believed there was no capable

candidate ready to take over. "We are not exactly blessed with a galaxy of stars," one insider admitted last night.

This could strengthen the claims of Menzies Campbell, at 58 the oldest of the potential runners, who might well offer his services as the man to take the party through the next general election, allowing younger pretenders to win more spurs.

One MP said the "smart money" was on Mr Campbell because he would appeal to MPs elected in 1997 who might also be reluctant to back a younger man.

Mr Campbell, the party's foreign affairs spokesman, was doing nothing to discourage speculation that he would run yesterday. Although close to Mr Ashdown, he said that, while the Liberal Democrats would continue to co-operate with the Government where they agreed, they opposed it for not spending enough on health and education. Nick Harvey, the campaigns chief who is seen as Mr Ashdown's favoured successor, said the agreement with Labour would survive but not in exactly the same way because "the personal chemistry is obviously a considerable part of it".

Simon Hughes, the only contender who voted against Mr Ashdown's decision to forge closer links with Mr Blair last November, admitted he had "fallen out" with his leader over the policy.

Still a hero to Tinkers Bubble folk

BY ANDREW BUNCOMBE

IN A damp wood a mile or two up the valley from Paddy Ashdown's house, Bob Baehr was coppicing hazel trees. "Yes, I'll be sorry to him go," said Mr Baehr, offering a mug of home-brewed apple juice. "I think he is a popular person - people around here like him."

The alternative community at Tinkers Bubble, near Norton sub Hamdon in Somerset, has good reason to like Paddy too. When they sought planning permission to build naturally resourced homes on the 40-acre site they bought six years ago, Mr Ashdown was a key supporter. He may not have been as vocal as they would have liked during the row that ran for years, but he made clear he could see nothing wrong with an alternative community living off the land - even if it was in his own back yard. "The other Christmas he came up here with a bottle of wine for us," said Mr Baehr. "He walked up from his house on the Christmas morning. He never slugged us off and was always friendly. The impression he gives is of a straight-up guy. He talks sense. People like that about him."

These are opinions you hear often in Yeovil when you ask about Paddy Ashdown. He was

in his late 30s when he took over as their Liberal prospective parliamentary candidate, holding surgeries and writing to government departments and other institutions when he believed one of his "constituents" had been wronged.

This boundless enthusiasm attracted many people. Others liked his action-man image. In 1993 he won what was a safe Tory seat for the Liberals - a seat he holds with a majority of 11,403. "He is going to be very difficult to replace as the MP," said Roger Baker, mayor of Yeovil. "He has worked very hard in the constituency. He has found it more difficult because he's been the leader... but he's still done a lot."

Baroness Miller of Chilthorne Domer, a Liberal Democrat peer and former leader of the district council, said: "The constituency is going to be really sad."

Mr Ashdown's experiences with Yeovil have not all been good. In 1996 his car was fire-bombed outside his house. A year earlier he was attacked by a man with a knife while he was walking the town with a vicar, assessing levels of racism.

No lament in Scottish HQ

BY STEPHEN GOODWIN
Scotland Correspondent

"Anyone who aspires to be leader will undoubtedly want to play an active role in the (Scottish) Parliament election campaign," Mr Wallace said. But he warned would-be leaders against putting personal ambition above the party. "Anyone who tries to take advantage of the election in a way that does damage to the party or side-tracks the campaign, there will be a premium to be paid for that," he said.

Officials are looking forward to the contest bringing the party more media attention. Mr Wallace was speaking at a press launch of the agenda for the Scottish party's conference in Aberdeen next month. Because of Mr Ashdown's departure, the meeting was packed and a band of photographers recorded the phoenix flag being hoisted. "Raising the standard" will be Liberal Democrats' election slogan - pledging the party to raise standards in politics, schools and hospitals.

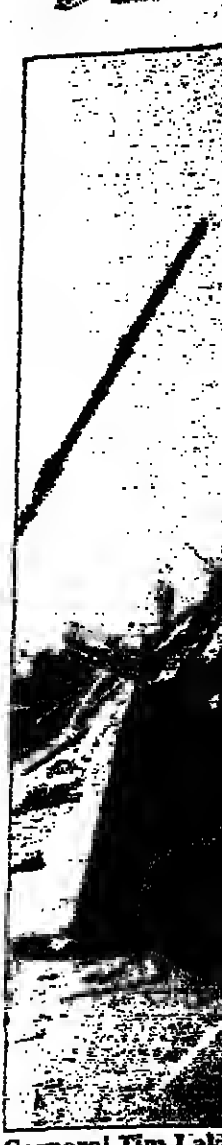
Mr Wallace, the leader of the Scottish Liberal Democrats, ruled himself out of the succession contest, saying that he had "quite enough on his plate" with the forthcoming election. Three other MPs with Scottish seats are expected to be in the race - Charles Kennedy, Menzies Campbell and Malcolm Bruce.



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Corporal Tim Lakin

Hostage in bubble folk

COMPLICATIONS have arisen over the release of two British hostages held by a militant group in a village in northern Sri Lanka.

The kidnappers are demanding the release of two British hostages held by a militant group in a village in northern Sri Lanka. But they will not be released until the British government agrees to pay a ransom of £100,000. The British government has refused to pay the ransom, saying it would encourage further kidnappings.

The British government has refused to pay the ransom, saying it would encourage further kidnappings. The British government has refused to pay the ransom, saying it would encourage further kidnappings.

Negotiations broke earlier in the week over the release of the two British hostages. The British government has refused to pay the ransom, saying it would encourage further kidnappings.

The hostages are being held in a village in northern Sri Lanka. The British government has refused to pay the ransom, saying it would encourage further kidnappings.

Meanwhile an exodus is beginning among the 500 British community in the village of whom work for companies. The Foreign Office has advised British nationals to leave the village.

Yemen to consider whether their presence is absolutely essential and, if not, to leave. It points out that 11 members of the group that killed the hostages - three Britons.

Chippendale chimp

MARY CHIPPERFIELD, a famous circus trainer, has a baby chimpanzee in "fearful despair", an animal expert says.

Dr Jane Goodall said a month-old animal, called "T", had been caged in an "unpleasant" and "unpleasant" manner at a training quarters near Dover in Hampshire.

Ms Chipperfield, 61, and her husband Roger, 62, own a 28-acre animal sanctuary at Croft Farm, Middle Wallop.

Undercover activists and Animal Defenders infiltrated Mary Chipperfield's sanctuary last year and shot 800 hours of secret videos.

Dr Goodall had watched the chimpanzee appear to be beaten and forced to spend 14 hours a day in a cramped cage where it was to spend 14 hours a day.

She said: "That young chimp has been put through a



Corporal Tim Lake, of the Princess of Wales Own Regiment, standing guard as Fort Whiterock is demolished

Crispin Rodwell

Symbol of Ulster's Troubles is razed

THE BIG wrecking cranes are busy at Fort Whiterock in west Belfast, slowly, methodically and with permission doing what the IRA tried so hard to do for so many years: razing the army outpost.

By summer there should be nothing left except level ground and a couple of disused buildings to mark the spot where for two decades soldiers ate, slept and led a perilous existence on the edge of Western Europe's most dangerous districts.

Fort Whiterock has since 1979 been perched on the lower slopes of the Black Mountain, overlooking the Falls and the rest of west Belfast, the sentries in its hi-tech turrets on the lookout for attack. Its soldiers have been sent out into the dangerous streets of Ballymurphy, New Barnsley and Turf Lodge, where numbers of them were killed and injured. It was a patrolling base, a heavily fortified installation cowering near the republican estates.

Its closure is a result of the

BY DAVID MCKITTRICK
Ireland Correspondent

Good Friday Agreement, which envisages a gradual rundown of security if the republican and loyalist ceasefires hold. The IRA may show no sign of decommissioning its weapons, but the military presence is being geotly wound down.

But there are still plenty of big army and RUC bases in Northern Ireland. While Fort Whiterock is being dismantled, the Army says other patrolling bases are available to it. Routine patrolling is now pretty much confined to some border difficult areas: troops are no longer generally seen in Belfast and elsewhere.

Demolition of such a base is a lengthy business, for large amounts of concrete and metal were needed to keep the IRA at bay. When *The Independent* visited six years ago, most of its four-and-a-half acres were protected by a superstructure consisting of miles of protective

scaffolding to fend off mortars and other projectiles. Yesterday most of this had been reduced to heaps of struts and girders waiting to be carted away.

Only a few military traces remain: a poster warning "Keep your eyes peeled"; a King's Own Scottish Borderers logo, a flaking picture of a lion painted by a Highland regiment.

The cranes will soon be demolishing the mess area, where the canteen was crisscrossed with brick walls to limit casualties from bomb blasts. They will go the spartan accommodation blocks where men slept six to a noisy room, the rooms branching off long, echoing corridors.

Those corridors were yesterday irresistibly reminiscent, in their concrete walls and institutional paint, of another security installation, the Maze prison. It too is heading for closure as the prisoners, like the troops, are being sent home, in the hope that this time the Troubles really are ending.

Hostages in blood money stand-off

COMPLICATIONS have arisen over the release of two British and four Dutch hostages kidnapped last week by Yemeni tribesmen.

The kidnappers are demanding the release of two members of their tribe being held in jail on a murder charge. But they will not be freed unless agreement can be reached with the family of their alleged victim over the payment of "blood money" as compensation, Yemeni sources say.

Eddie and Mary Rosser, British aid workers, were taken hostage with Hans Koolstra, his wife and two children, by members of the Bakhil tribal federation who stopped their car on the road between the capital Sanaa and Sada.

Negotiations broke down earlier in the week over the question of the release of two members of the tribe held for murder. The families of murder victims in Yemen normally demand the killers' execution unless they are paid compensation under tribal law.

The hostages are being well-treated and there is no immediate threat to their safety, according to reports from the negotiators.

Meanwhile an exodus is beginning among the 500-strong British community in Yemen, half of whom work for oil companies. The Foreign Office has advised British nationals in Yemen "to consider whether their presence is absolutely essential and, if not, to leave". It points out that 11 members of the group that killed four hostages - three Britons and

BY PATRICK COCKBURN
in Sanaa

one Australian - on 28 December are still at large.

The new Foreign Office advice says those who remain in Yemen should review their security arrangements and "avoid all travel on roads outside the main town". The oil companies provide armed guards for their employees and, in some cases, have forbidden them even to visit downtown Sanaa or big hotels such as the Taj Sheba and the Sheraton, where foreigners congregate.

British exports to Yemen were only £77m in 1998 and there are no British companies with large staffs in the country. While British tourists do visit Yemen, most tourism is from Italy, Germany and France.

Other foreign embassies in Sanaa were taking a more relaxed view. One west European diplomat said: "Maybe the British have perceived that they are targets and are in a different position from ourselves."

Although there have been three different kidnappings involving British citizens since late December it is unclear if they are being deliberately selected. In the most recent cases, the evidence is that they were not. The oil worker John Brooke was taken hostage on 9 January when he challenged a man who had entered the company compound. The kidnappers who ambushed Mr and Mrs Rosser were apparently intent on taking prisoner the first foreigners they saw.

Chipperfield kept chimp 'in fear'

MARY CHIPPERFIELD, the famed circus trainer kept a baby chimpanzee in "fear and despair", an animal expert told a court yesterday.

Dr Jane Goodall said an 18-month-old animal, called Trudy, had been caged in an "utterly inappropriate fashion" at a winter training quarters near Andover in Hampshire.

Ms Chipperfield, 61, and her husband Roger Cawley, 64, deny 28 animal cruelty charges at Croft Farm, Middle Wallop.

Undercover activists from Animal Defenders infiltrated Mary Chipperfield Promotions Ltd last year and shot 800 hours of secret videos.

Dr Goodall had watched film of the chimpanzee apparently being beaten and forced into a cramped cage where it was said to spend 14 hours a day.

She said: "That young chimp has been put through consid-

BY LINUS GREGORIADIS

erable trauma and to leave her there in a cage by herself, hurting and frightened, that to me is very cruel. The chimp was being treated in a way which I would describe as very cruel."

Dr Goodall helps to run four sanctuaries for orphaned chimpanzees in Africa.

The trial continues.

In Wednesday's *Independent* we wrongly stated that Richard Chipperfield, who was attacked by a tiger in Florida last year, was Mary Chipperfield's son. Neither Richard Chipperfield nor Nigel Wesson, whose arm was bitten off by a tiger last year, is connected with Mary Chipperfield. We have been asked to make it clear that Chipperfield Circus, run by Chipperfield Enterprises Limited, has no business connection with Mary Chipperfield.

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Bloodstained banknotes from the gallery of rogues

ARRIVING IN the House yesterday I was surprised to find it looking rather more dishevelled than is usually the case. Scattered across the floor in front of the mace was a thin drift of bloodstained banknotes. The odd sheet, obeying the famously wayward aerodynamics of paper money, had lodged on the back benches or on the table in front of the Speaker's chair.

It made for an intriguing picture and every now and then a newcomer would arrive and inspect one of the notes hopefully, before discovering that it had been issued by the Bank of Radical Indignation and laying it down again with a disap-

pointed air. It looked as if some corrupt backbencher's wallet had exploded without warning. The truth was more mundane, naturally. Two men in the public gallery had dropped this filthy lucre to protest at arms sales to Indonesia, an outrage for which they were promptly hustled from the gallery.

Thoroughly deplorable, but I have to confess to a certain dismay at missing the moment of launch. It left me feeling a bit like a dedicated Loch Ness watcher who nips off to restock his caravanette-cum-observation post only to find that the monster has been posing for pictures with its baby while he's been gone.

I've been waiting months for someone to throw something from the public gallery. Indeed, it's one of the consoling fantasies of the sketch-writer's life to gaze across at the other end of this occasionally suffocating space and imagine one of those anonymous figures rising up and hurling a missile into the chamber. Sometimes the imaginary ammunition will be relatively benign but at other times, usually when some smirking Labour backbencher is busy oiling the wheels of their own career, the mind will arm that innocuous looking tourist with something more serious - perhaps a Heckler and Koch machine-gun

THE SKETCH



THOMAS
SUTCLIFFE

locked on full auto. It isn't just stale rhetoric that conjures these aggressive day-dreams. It's as much

the House's sense of its own dignity, a strangely malleable solemnity that can absorb the lazy slouch of frontbench Tories, propping their feet on the dispatch table with a patrician loudness, or even the closing-time rowdiness of over-excited MPs, but which trembles in affront at the thought of a tie-less reporter or a member of the public writing something down on a sheet of paper.

Perhaps sensitised by that first outrage against parliamentary propriety, the Liberal Democrat MP Peter Brand denounced one of my colleagues to a clerk for chewing nicotine gum in the reporters' gallery, masticatory insolence that

clearly could not pass unchallenged. One assault on democracy is quite enough for a single day.

He can perhaps be forgiven for seeking distraction from the debate - a grinding inspection of clauses and amendments to the Road Traffic Bill for which, at one point, the three main parties had mustered four, three and two MPs respectively.

These kind of numbers do strange things to the chemistry of the chamber. The same constituent elements are mixed together and the same kind of friction takes place but combustion is all but impossible. When John Hutton refused to give way to Evan Harris,

the thwarted MP blinked with feigned amazement and looked around for support. If the House had been full he would have been rewarded with pantomime "ooooohs" but yesterday, not a murmur. The only relief from the proceedings lay in counting the number of times Liberal Democrats were teased about their prospects in the impending leadership campaign.

Already weary of this limited joke, Dr Harris expressed the hope that honourable members would soon become bored with it too. I fear he has greatly underestimated his colleagues' heroic capacity to withstand tedium.

Cook defends foreign policy as 'radical'

ROBIN COOK will hit back at his Labour critics today by saying that Britain's "tough" foreign policy is in tune with the left's traditions.

Mr Cook's speech will be seen as a defence of his support for the British and American bombing of Iraq last month and another signal that the West will soon launch military action against Serbia over its actions in Kosovo.

Some Labour MPs have accused Mr Cook of betraying his roots in the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament by endorsing Tony Blair's hawkish strategy.

But the Foreign Secretary will declare: "Those of us on the left of centre believe passionately in the rule of law, human rights, democracy and freedom."

"We have a strong tradition for standing up for these values, but we can do so only through a robust approach to the world and a resolve to stand up to those who threaten peace and stability."

Giving the Ernest Bevin Memorial Lecture, commemo-

FOREIGN AFFAIRS
BY ANDREW GRICE
Political Editor

rating the former trade union leader who became foreign secretary in the postwar Labour government, Mr Cook said: "Bevin was a man of the left... but he never confused a love of peace with weakness."

"He knew that in a tough world it was not enough just to be right."

The Foreign Secretary said that Bevin understood one important truth - weakness was not a left-wing virtue, and a peaceful and secure world could not be built on a foundation of weakness.

Mr Cook added: "Bevin knew that standing up to dictators, defending freedoms and enforcing the rule of law was a left-wing cause."

The speech came as Mr Blair and his ministers stepped up their preparations for military action in Kosovo after the killing of 45 ethnic Albanians last weekend.

The Prime Minister was due to speak to President Bill Clin-

ton last night and officials from the Contact Group of powers on the Balkans meet in London today. They are Britain, the US, France, Italy, Germany and Russia.

The Prime Minister confirmed in a telephone call to Gerhard Schröder, the German Chancellor, and current holder of the European Union's rotating presidency, that force may have to be used against the Yugoslav President, Slobodan Milosevic.

However, Mr Blair and Mr Schröder also agreed that military action against the backdrop of a political vacuum in Kosovo could prove futile.

Downing Street said there was a "large convergence of views" that President Milosevic's behaviour had been "unacceptable". But the two leaders also agreed that the Kosovo Liberation Army had been "provocative".

In a further sign that military intervention is looming, the crisis in Kosovo dominated yesterday's meeting of the Cabinet in London.

Kosovo crisis, page 12



Tony Blair signing autographs in London yesterday at the launch of the Millennium Awards Fellowship which recognises the voluntary efforts of people in community projects given lottery grants

Straw will not see his MI5 file

SECURITY SERVICE
BY SARAH SCHAEFER
Political Reporter

JACK STRAW has admitted that MI5 kept a file on him and labelled him a "political subversive" in the 1970s when he was the president of the National Union of Students.

But the Home Secretary made clear he did not want to see the file, because it would be abusing his position. "It is an accident for which the security service were responsible 25 years ago that I know there is a file on me. But I have not looked through it. I don't think I should have any more rights over that file than any other citizen in the same position."

Allegations that his phone was bugged and a file kept on him were first made by David Shayler, the ex-MI5 agent who revealed a dossier claiming "operational inefficiency" and "management malpractice". He said the former ministers Peter Mandelson and Harriet Harman were also monitored.

In a BBC television programme, *How to be a Home Secretary*, to be shown on Sunday, Mr Straw professed his confidence in the security service. He was "pretty happy" about the way the service was run, adding that he had regular meetings with the director-general, Stephen Lander.

Air traffic control sell-off should be delayed, say MPs

THE GOVERNMENT'S £1bn plan to privatise air traffic control should be put on hold until a new centre which is set to improve safety and reduce delays is opened, a committee of MPs urged yesterday.

They argued that any decision to opt for a public-private partnership should be deferred until the Swanwick project in Hampshire, the site of the new air traffic control centre for Britain, was up and running because presently there was "little confidence" in the service's accuracy. They found that average air traffic delays had increased from 14 to 17 minutes during the last year.

The date for the completion of the £475m Swanwick centre

TRANSPORT
BY SARAH SCHAEFER

is uncertain because there have been problems with its software and the opening, originally scheduled for 1996, has slipped back to 2002. Until the Swanwick centre was opened, MPs said, the Government should consider restructuring the National Air Traffic Services within the public sector.

The report by the Environment, Transport and the Regions Select Committee coincided with advice by the Civil Aviation Authority that a "safe and efficient" air traffic service could be under threat if the NATS was split up. Sir Malcolm Field, the CAA chair-

man, said in a letter that a break-up of the present system would result in higher costs to customers and "even increase flight delays". Privatisation of air traffic services has been controversial since before the last general election. It was opposed by Labour under the Tories but the leadership swung behind it during the campaign. Dr John Reid, the Transport minister, said in his evidence to the committee that he was in favour of the public-private partnership if the time for a sell-off was right so that the taxpayer would get best value for money.

He suggested that legislation to implement the privatisation could be passed before the

next general election, but only enacted "at the appropriate time". MPs also urged regular checks on the health and morale of air traffic controllers amid a safety threat because of their increasing workload.

The Government launched a crackdown on airport security breaches across Britain yesterday amid recent allegations that a contract cleaning firm at Heathrow gave out a temporary access pass without checking the employee's references.

Dr John Reid, the Transport minister, said "only one breach" of security could cost lives and ordered that all security passes from Skyliner's temporary staff be withdrawn pending an inquiry.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Voting rights
DEBATE ON the Bill to scrap hereditary peers' voting rights will start in the Commons on Monday 1 February, said the Commons leader, Margaret Beckett.

Assembly site
A SURVEY of visitors to an exhibition of design proposals for the two shortlisted buildings to house the new mayor and assembly for London showed a clear preference for the London Bridge City site on the south bank.

Missile claim
IRAN HAS demanded compensation from Britain for a missile that landed on its territory during last month's air strikes against Iraq, the Foreign Office minister Derek Fatchett disclosed, stressing that British forces did not fire any missiles during Operation Desert Fox.

Prescott lines up with New Labour

JOHN PRESCOTT publicly embraced "New Labour" last night and praised Tony Blair's fulfilment of manifesto commitments, including the minimum wage, trade union recognition and the reform of the House of Lords.

The Deputy Prime Minister's speech, which was firmly "on message", was intended to scotch reports over Christmas that he was resigning over Peter Mandelson's claim that he was challenging the direction of the Government. Mr Prescott, who has a reputation for avoiding the term "New Labour", used the speech in London to demonstrate that New Labour's objectives are identical with his own agenda for "traditional values in a modern setting".

The Deputy Prime Minister also reinforced the message that he has forged a close working relationship with Gordon Brown. He said the Chancellor's comprehensive spending review, which led to the redistribution of more than £40bn to health and education, was a "tremendous credit" to Mr Brown. "Without Gordon Brown we would not have

PARTY POLICY
BY COLIN BROWN
Chief Political Correspondent

achieved the radical new forms of public-private partnership, recycling of road user charges, 'green' principles in our code of taxation or the emphasis on increasing capital investment," he told a conference of the Centre for Local Economic Studies.

"We believe that a thriving economy and social justice are two sides of the same coin," he said. "I am proud to be a proponent of Labour's traditional values. But I am equally proud to be a champion of new thinking and modern methods, to achieve our aims in a modern way. Ignore all the journalistic prattle. Look at what my department is doing - putting New Labour principles into practical action."

Dismissing media coverage of the Government's "black Christmas" as "the politics of soap opera", Mr Prescott said: "I believe that the media concentration on gossip and personalities directly follows from the inability to sustain a serious attack on our policies."

THE HOUSE



Value initiative

MEASURES TO encourage town halls to find the efficient ways to provide housing services to address homelessness, private sector renewal and energy efficient housing were launched by Housing Minister Hilary Armstrong as part of the Government's Best Value initiative.

No conflict

STEPS HAVE been taken to ensure there was no conflict of interest for junior trade and industry minister Lord Sainsbury of Turville, Trade Secretary Stephen Byers said, after Tories demanded to take responsibility for policy on genetically modified food away from him because he had stakes in companies involved in genetic research.

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BY STEVE CONN...
Science Correspondent
in Los Angeles

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Diana inquiry officially ended

THE JUDICIAL investigation of the accident that killed Diana, Princess of Wales will be declared officially over today.

But decisions on who - if anyone - should be prosecuted for their part in events before and after the accident beneath the Place de l'Alma nearly 17 months ago will not be made for several weeks.

In only the second public statement since the inquiry began, the public prosecutor's office in Paris is expected to announce that Judge Hervé Stéphan has completed his investigations. The dossier, including interviews with 153 witnesses and potential witnesses, and the most exhaustive technical examination done on a wrecked car in France, runs to more than 50,000 pages.

Leaks earlier this month suggested that Judge Stéphan had decided nobody should be prosecuted for actions leading to the crash but that three members of the pursuing press pack should be accused of failing to help the victims. Sources say these leaks were faulty, based on official documents presented to the investigation, not the conclusions.

The length and costs of the inquiry - estimated at £6m - have provoked controversy in Britain and France. But Judge Stéphan was said to be determined to lay to rest every rumour, innuendo and speculative report before he finished. His report is expected to reject fully any suggestion that the crash early on 31 August was not an accident.

Most of the blame is likely to fall on the driver, Henri Paul, who had been drinking heavily and taking anti-depressant drugs. Mr Paul and Diana's

By JOHN LUCHFIELD in Paris

companion, Dodi Fayed, died instantly when their armoured Mercedes - which Mr Paul was not qualified to drive - spun out of control and hit the 13th pillar of a narrow, twisting underpass. Diana died later from her injuries.

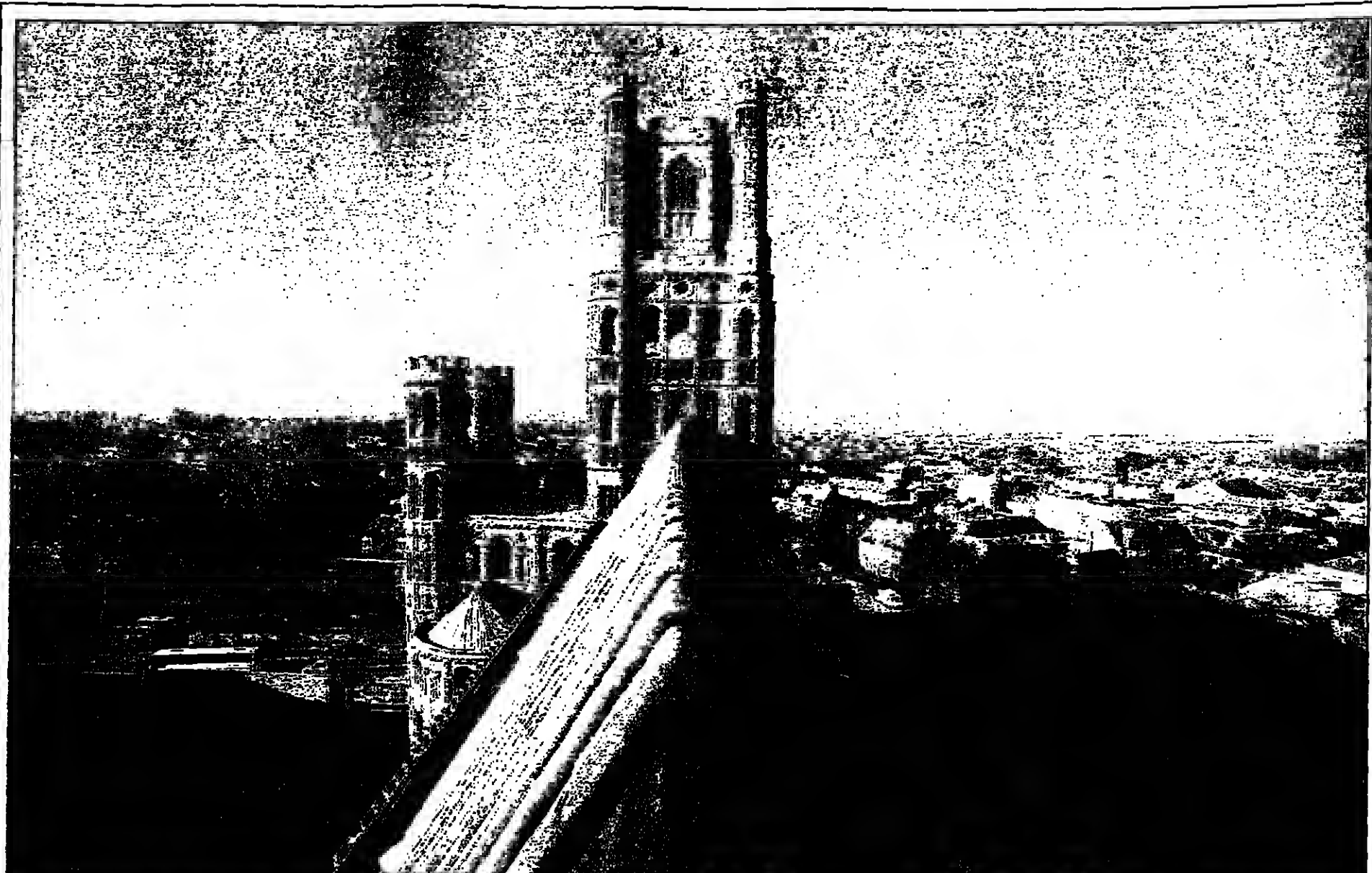
Although the inquiry is formally over there will be no conclusions on possible prosecutions for six to eight weeks, perhaps longer. All parties in the case - the 10 pursuing photographers facing possible manslaughter charges, the families of the three victims and the survivor, the bodyguard Trevor Rees-Jones - have 20 days to request further investigation. If Judge Stéphan rejects their requests, the parties can appeal, delaying the entire process for months longer.

If everybody is satisfied, the judge will hand the dossier to the public prosecutor's office in the middle of next month. The procureur, or public prosecutor, has three months to recommend whether criminal charges should be brought, although a swifter decision is expected. The judge has a further two weeks to accept or reject the prosecutor's opinion.

Even without an appeal for more inquiries, judicial sources say no decision on charges should be expected before the middle of March.

Sources believe Judge Stéphan has found no convincing evidence that the photographers caused the crash.

He is also said to be unconvinced by calls from Mr Rees-Jones' lawyers for negligence charges to be brought against the Ritz Hotel, who employed Mr Paul.



The Romanesque splendour of Ely Cathedral, which has been awarded the second largest grant of £416,000 from English Heritage

Andrew Buurman

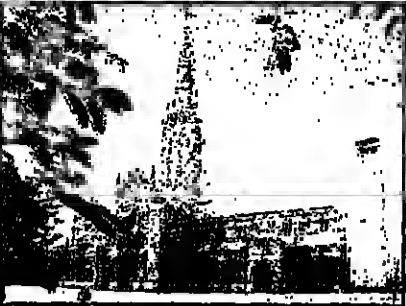
£9m grant rescues English cathedrals

By CLARE GARNER

ENGLISH CATHEDRALS were awarded £9m yesterday to be spent on essential repairs over the next three years.

English Heritage announced the grant, which is more than £3m to be shared among 29 cathedrals over the coming year, and a further £6m to follow, provided the work was completed on time.

Announcing the award at Ely Cathedral, Sir Jocelyn Stevens, chairman of English Heritage, said: "Now that the Department for Culture, Media and Sport has agreed our funding for the next three years, for the first time we will be able to give cathedrals the



From left, Salisbury Cathedral, which receives a £503,000 grant, and Worcester and Lincoln cathedrals



England's cathedrals were, he added, "admired and visited by people (from) all over the world", and provided an education resource and employment, as well as promoting high standards in skills such as stonemasonry and woodwork. "It is of the utmost importance that everything is done to help preserve them and the treasures they contain," he said.

Other large grants for the coming year went to Lincoln Cathedral, £364,000, and Worcester Cathedral, £360,000. Gloucester Cathedral received £175,000 and St Paul's £100,000. Since 1991 English Heritage has given almost £30m to the nation's great ecclesiastical buildings.

security of knowing what funding the cathedrals can expect from English Heritage over the next three years."

The largest individual grant, £503,000, went to Salisbury Cathedral, for continuing work on the west-front masonry,

and repairs to medieval glazing.

Ely Cathedral, an impressive example of Romanesque architecture that dominates the small city and its surrounding landscape, received the second largest, £416,000. Dr

Michael Higgins, the Dean of Ely, said: "This magnificent grant takes Ely into the last stages of a £12m restoration, the biggest in our long history."

Sir Jocelyn praised Dr Higgins for the way he had put together plans and completed

them on time and within budget. He said he wished all cathedrals were as effective as Ely and warned that, when it came to agreeing grants for the second and third years, cathedrals would be judged on their record in this coming year.

Dinosaur that sprinted like a cheetah is found in fossil

By STEVE CONNOR
Science Correspondent
in Los Angeles

ONE OF the most perfectly preserved fossils of a meat-eating dinosaur - giving a unique view of the animal's internal organs - has revealed that although the extinct carnivores often lounged around like lizards, they could also sprint like a cheetah.

A study of the fossil theropod - the group that includes T rex and the vicious velociraptors of Steven Spielberg's *Jurassic Park* - shows their organs were perfectly adapted to frantic bursts of speed when it was necessary.

The fossil of a baby Scipionyx, which lived 110 million years ago and bore a resemblance to velociraptors, displays within the body cavity a partition separating the heart and lungs from the liver and guts. Scientists believe this acted as a primitive diaphragm, which ventilated the lungs during periods of intense activity.

Nicholas Geist, a dinosaur expert at Oregon State University and member of the team that studied the fossil, said the find has shed new light on the behaviour of the dinosaurs and could help to resolve whether they were cold-blooded, like reptiles, or warm-



Scipionyx could lounge like a lizard but was no slouch when a meal beckoned OSU

blooded, like mammals. "The theropod dinosaurs were fast, dangerous animals, certainly not slow or sluggish. They could conserve energy much of the time and then go like hell whenever they wanted to."

"This fossil is helping to confirm the dinosaurs were ... cold-blooded ... But the extraordinary condition of the fossil allows us to hang some meat on the bones of these animals and bring them back to life a little

bit. It's almost like a dinosaur dissection."

Cold-blooded animals in a warm climate can move quickly, Dr Geist added. "Then, if you add in the lung capacity that we're finding for meat-eating dinosaurs, what you have is a turbo-charged reptile. If you could go back in time and saw one of them, that's probably the last thing you'd ever see."

The fossil Scipionyx was found in Italy. Terry Jones, an-

other member of the Oregon team, said: "The baby dinosaur probably died in a ... saltwater marsh that preserved its structure incredibly well. It's like a Rosetta stone for paleontology, and shows us more about dinosaur biology than we ever knew before." Details of the findings are in *Science*, journal of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, which yesterday opened its annual meeting in Los Angeles.

Prisoner copied death-row video

A REMAND prisoner at a privately run jail was found hanging in his cell within hours of watching a rented video about a death row inmate being sent to the gas chamber.

The coroner at the man's inquest yesterday expressed concern that inmates should be allowed to watch films showing prisoners awaiting execution.

Michael Arliss, 31, died in Doncaster prison shortly after watching *The Chamber*, a film based on a John Grisham novel. Mr Arliss, who was

By IAN BURRELL
Home Affairs Correspondent

charged with murdering his girlfriend, had been on remand in the prison for seven months when he was found dead on the morning of 24 March last year. Jail staff described him as a model prisoner. He was not considered a suicide risk.

The Doncaster coroner, Stanley Hooper, said: "I am concerned about the fact that entertainment ... [of this type] ... should be shown to prison-

ers. I will write to the Home Secretary because I'm told there is no nationwide policy about what is shown in prisons. I will ask that consideration be given to some sort of restrictions on what is available, not least to men and women on remand for charges of murder."

Doncaster prison is a private jail run by an American company, Premier Prisons. It has category B status and houses 1,100 inmates, some of whom have been sentenced and others who are on remand.

Kevin Rogers, the prison director, said he had no power to censor which films inmates watched, although pornography was banned. "If the film was about making bombs, guns or escape plans I might be able to stop it because it posed a threat to prison security but I am not in a position to censor ordinary films even though I am a prison governor," he said.

The jury returned a verdict that Mr Arliss, who had intended to plead not guilty to murder, killed himself.

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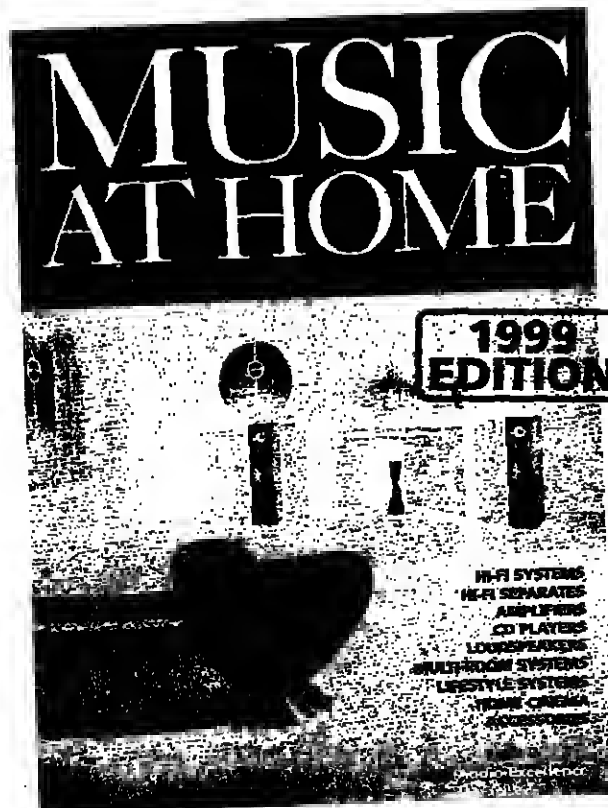
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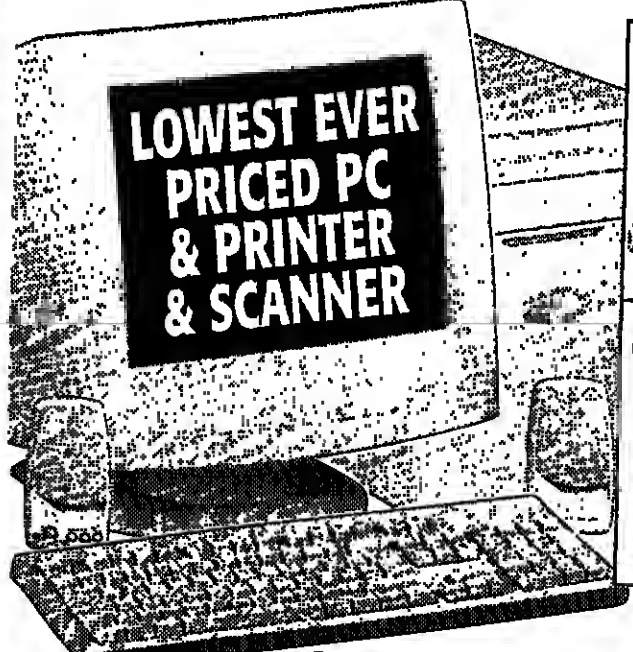
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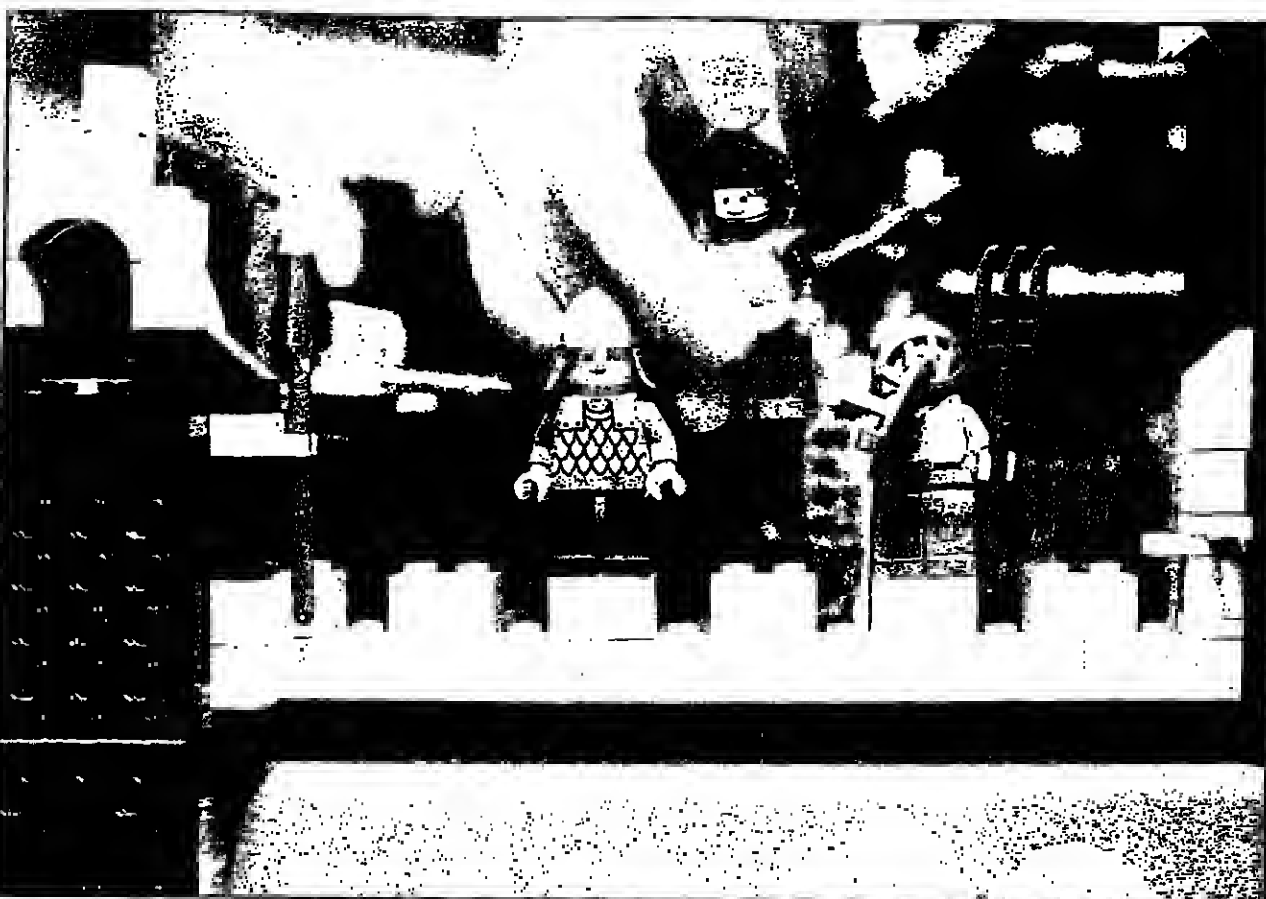
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IN THE FRI

Technology: Traditional children's favourite in trouble as computer mania hits everything from shares to toys



Lego has been hit by the growth of computer toys such as Sony's Playstation

John Lawrence

Lego lays off 1,000 as toys go digital

LEGO, THE legendary maker of toy bricks, is to scrap 1,000 jobs worldwide in a move to fight competition from electronic games and restore its crumbling finances.

The sweeping restructuring, announced yesterday, comes after a year in which the Danish group's performance was hit by the huge growth in a new breed of computer games, such as those carried by Sony's Playstation. Industry experts say most children have ditched Lego's old fashioned bricks, which have remained virtually unchanged for half a century, for high-tech games.

The company tried to bridge the gap last year with the launch of Lego Mindstorms, an "intelligent" brick fitted with a microchip that can be built into

BY FRANCESCO GUERRERA

a moving robot. Lego's efforts to get rid of its staid image also saw the Danish company tie up with Walt Disney to market Winnie the Poob and with the film director George Lucas to sell toys modelled on the *Star Wars* characters.

However, analysts believe that Lego's marketing efforts are doomed unless the company reforms its internal workings. The company said yesterday that its inefficient corporate structure and difficult market conditions would push it into the red for the first time in its 67-year history.

The firm said the job cuts were needed to stop the slide in sales and profits. In a letter to the group's 10,000 employees

Kjeld Kirk Kristiansen, Lego's billionaire owner, said the company needed a "fitness programme" to improve its financial health. "Just like athletes, before we begin our all-important task we have to slim down and improve our overall health," he said.

The programme would see the disappearance of 1,000 jobs in 30 countries. In Britain, Lego has about 300 employees, mainly in the Legoland Park in Windsor, Berkshire, and in its sales operation in Wrexham, Clwyd. A spokesman said it was "too early" to say where the axe would fall but a counselling centre would be set up to help with the stress of redundancy. "It's part of the Lego culture of being close to our staff."

sonal fortune is estimated at about \$2.3bn (£1.4bn), said the cuts would come mainly among administrative staff to "create a new, simpler and above all more efficient business system".

Industry experts believe that Lego's bloated workforce is one of the reasons for its problems and it will not be able to reverse its poor performance in the short term. They estimate Lego will post a loss of about 200m Danish Krona (£19m) when it unveils its results for last year at the end of April.

Mr Kristiansen, the third generation of his family to run the firm, said Lego was not facing a crisis. "We will not deviate from our goal of being the world's strongest brand among families," he said.

Experts warn of Internet share crash

THE LAUGHTER over Wall Street just now is almost audible. It erupts daily with the opening of the markets and if you listen carefully you will hear a million tongues chanting two magic words. Dot-com, they recite over and over; dot-com. It is the sound of unrestrained cheer and, it must be said, of high anxiety.

Warning came from one of the Street's best-know sages yesterday: this is a bubble that will surely burst. And indeed an abrupt sell-off of Internet stocks in New York yesterday sent the Nasdaq exchange plummeting by an ominous 3 per cent.

This is the season, the chapter in human history, that the world found the Internet. And went nuts over it. The rules that Wall Street has lived by for decades - such as calibrating stock values against earnings - have been thrown out. Investors want nothing of common sense and caution. Show them an Internet stock and they will buy it; never mind if the company has no earnings. The stars are well known.

The stars are well known.

YAHOO

BY DAVID USBORNE
in New York

"It's the wildest thing I've ever seen," commented Chuck Hill, research director of the market researchers First Call in New York. "I think the market as a whole is over priced and that we're in a bubble and the extreme within that bubble is the Internet stocks."

Some see parallels with the Dutch tulip craze of 1635, when investors worldwide rushed to speed today's equivalent of \$17,000 to \$76,000 on a single bulb. What made a humble bulb such a must-buy is hard oow to imagine. But the Internet seems more compelling. We are in the midst of a new revolution, the argument goes, akin to the dawning of the industrial age.

Believers say that a whole new society is opening before us, where commerce will no longer be conducted in the physical world of bricks and mortar but in the digital world of cyber-space. The swing of the shop door will give way to the mouse-click and the browser. And there is evidence to support the theory. In this last Christmas season, no fewer than 17 million Americans entered the universe of the Internet for the first time. Most of them were there to buy things.

And so the stocks have risen. Most startling have been the serial initial public offerings (IPOs) in recent months of new companies with one thing in common: no profits, but dot-com after their name. It was five weeks ago, for example,

five weeks ago, for example, that theglobe.com, the company that now is seeking a partner in Britain, listed itself on the Nasdaq and saw the value of its shares rise 606 per cent in that first day.

The flood of money, most of it from small investors but recently from institutions as well, has thus propelled market values to truly astonishing heights. The auction house eBay, which is essentially a non-stop car-boot sale in cyberspace, is now worth six times as much as Sotheby's. No wonder the latter announced this week that it is to launch its own web site, to be called sothebys.com

Founded only 1994, Yahoo!,
that has the most popular por-
tal site in the industry, offering
one-click access to entertain-
ment, news, online shipping
and (of course) stock trading,
is now worth twice the empire

that Rupert Murdoch built. No wonder he tried this week to pour cold water on the Internet, suggesting it would destroy more companies than it created. Yahoo!, indeed is more valuable than General Motors.

The same sums can be made for America Online. The company, which recently made headlines gobbling up browser pioneer Netscape, is more valuable today than either Du Pont, Chevron or Eastman Kodak.

PHILIP HENSHER

We want a martyr; and martyrs aren't bitter, don't behave badly or have sex

IN THE FRIDAY REVIEW

PAGE 4



"SEVEN SEATS?" thought Alice. "And AIR-CONDITIONING? And ANTI-LOCK BRAKES? And TWO YEARS' FREE SERVICING? And TWO YEARS' INTEREST-FREE CREDIT? All this from £18,995?" She felt dreadfully puzzled.

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“Curiouser and curiouser!” cried Alice (she was so much surprised, that for the moment she quite forgot how to speak good English). For more information, call 0800 52 51 50.

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**RENAULT**[illegible]

Clinton lawyers denounce evidence

WHITE HOUSE lawyers wound up their defence of President Bill Clinton in the Senate yesterday, protesting that the charges against him were flawed and on no account justified his removal from office.

The ousting of a democratically elected president, the defence argued, would be a unique and momentous decision out of all proportion to the offences alleged and the achievements of his presidency. The last president to be subject to Senate trial, Andrew Johnson in 1868, was acquitted by a single vote.

To bolster their case, in style as well as substance, the defence team had co-opted Dale Bumpers, the newly retired Democrat senator from Mr Clinton's home state of Arkansas, to deliver the closing statement. Mr Bumpers, whose departure from the Senate last year was lamented in Washington and in his home state equally as the end of an era, lent to the White House defence the flights of soaring rhetoric and lofty principle that its arguments had mostly lacked.

Mr Bumpers was valuable not only as a practised advocate in the style to which the Senate aspires, but as an Arkansan, familiar with the President's background and the political mores of his home state. According to Arkansas natives, the shenanigans in and around the capital, Little Rock, at least in the past, make whatever Bill Clinton was up to in the White House look like adolescent naivete.

Mr Bumpers' closing oration followed two-and-a-half days in which defence lawyers had concentrated on the small print of the allegations against the President to cast doubt, if not completely discredit, the charges against him. On the opening day, Charles Ruff, the White House chief counsel, had challenged the evidence that Mr Clinton had instigated the concealment of presents that he had given to Monica Lewinsky. The following day, Gregory Craig had cast doubt on the specific perjury charges against

BY MARY DEJEVSKY
in Washington

him, insisting that he never lied under oath, and Cheryl Mills - young, black and a White House deputy counsel - attacked the obstruction of justice charges and pleaded Mr Clinton's civil rights record in mitigation of his non-offences. Ms Mills, whose impassioned performance made her an overnight star in Washington, moved some senators close to tears with her defence of the "civil rights" President.

Yesterday, though, belonged to Dale Bumpers, whose contribution brought to a close six days of presentations - three by the House of Representatives "prosecutors" and three by the White House - that have been increasingly lauded as attaining the height of judicial professionalism. They have also left the case exceptionally finely balanced, as prepared statements give way to two days of written questions from the senators.

Outside the Senate chamber - but perhaps even starting to seep inside - seemed to be a growing view that the trial might, after all, be concluded without calling "live" witnesses. Some believed that the combination of doubt cast on the evidence and Mr Clinton's triumphant State of the Union address combined to make the case against him unanswerable. Others felt that witnesses might be questioned by lawyers but that their answers would be sufficient, without the need for them to appear in person.

With even one of the President's fiercest critics, the right-wing evangelist, Pat Robertson, saying publicly that in his view it was "all over" and that Mr Clinton's State of the Union address had clinched it, the prospect of conviction looked even slimmer than before.

On Monday the 100 senators are scheduled to vote on whether to dismiss the case or continue to the hearing of witnesses. The trial looks likely to continue.

PROSECUTION

Principles

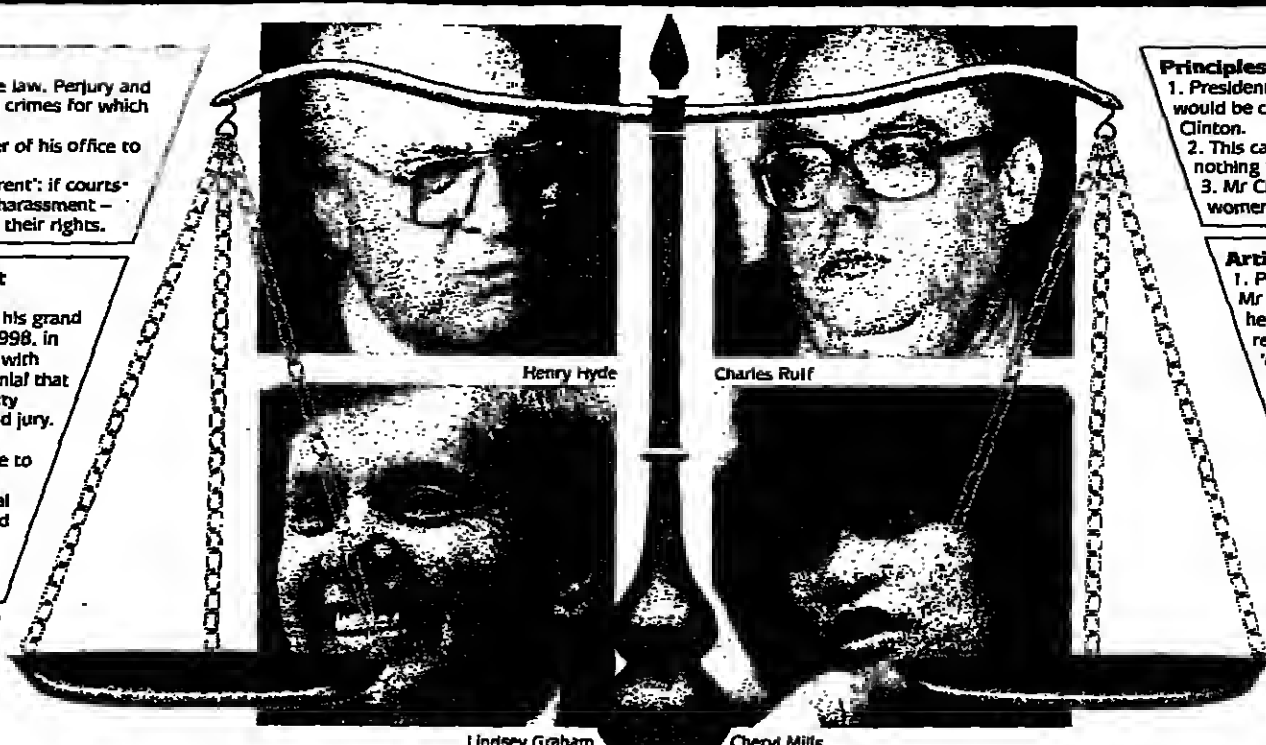
- 1 Presidents are not above the law. Perjury and obstructing justice are serious crimes for which others have been imprisoned.
- 2 Mr Clinton abused the power of his office to obstruct justice.
- 3 Lying about sex is not "different": if courts tolerated it, victims of sexual harassment - primarily women - would lose their rights.

Articles of Impeachment

- 1 Perjury
Mr Clinton perjured himself in his grand jury testimony of 17 August 1998, in his account of his relationship with Monica Lewinsky and in his denial that he "coached" his secretary, Betty Currie, in what to tell the grand jury.
- 2 Obstruction of Justice
Mr Clinton concocted a scheme to deprive Paula Jones of her recourse to justice in her sexual harassment case. He persuaded Monica Lewinsky to sign an affidavit denying their relationship.

The Constitution
Perjury and obstruction of justice do "rise to the level of high crimes and misdemeanours".

HOW THE PRESIDENT'S FUTURE HANGS IN THE BALANCE



DEFENCE

Principles

1. Presidents are not "below" the law: no one would be convicted on the evidence against Mr Clinton.
2. This case is about private conduct, and has nothing to do with the office of the presidency.
3. Mr Clinton's record on minority, civil and women's rights has been second to none.

Articles of Impeachment

1. Perjury
Mr Clinton was truthful in his evidence: he admitted an "inappropriate" relationship; his admission to "occasional" meetings and contacts was correct, and he did not "coach" Mrs Currie.
2. Obstruction of Justice
There was no scheme, just an embarrassed husband trying to conceal an affair. The deception was unconnected with the Paula Jones case. Mr Clinton did not instigate the hiding of gifts.

The Constitution
Impeachment is part-political, part-judicial. The charges, even if proved, do not warrant removing a highly competent President from office.

Row over heir to 'Star Wars'

BY ANDREW MARSHALL
in Washington

THE UNITED States has sparked a dispute with Russia over Washington's plans for a new anti-missile system, bringing a whiff of the Cold War back to relations with Moscow.

The new threat is not Russia, however, but what the US calls "rogue states" - such as North Korea - which it suspects of having missiles capable of reaching the American mainland. The National Missile Defence is the heir of Star Wars, the plan by former president Ronald Reagan to use space-based interceptors and ground systems to make the US invulnerable to missile attack. The latest scheme is a much smaller version, based on ground interceptors.

But the 1972 Anti-Ballistic Missile (ABM) Treaty, a landmark in arms control between Moscow and Washington, puts limits on systems. President Bill Clinton sent a letter to Moscow on Wednesday, saying he wanted to revise the treaty.

"We remain committed to the ABM treaty," the White House spokesman Joe Lockhart said. "We continue to discuss, with the Russians, any steps that may need to be taken or any amendments that may need to be made as far as any future deployment of the national missile defence system."

But the Defense Secretary, William Cohen, indicated on



William Cohen: "The US could pull out of the treaty"

Wednesday that the US might go further: if the treaty could not be amended, he said, "then we have the option of [citing] our national interest, indicating we would simply pull out of the treaty".

Russia says now that if the US goes down this road, then it will block any further moves on arms limitation. "Any attempts to break out of the ABM treaty are regarded in the Defence Ministry as a violation of strategic stability," Colonel-General Leonid Ivashov, head of international co-operation in the ministry, told Interfax news agency.

Frank Ricciardone, a career diplomat, was yesterday appointed by the US to the new post of special representative for transition in Iraq. He will co-ordinate aid to opposition groups. But yesterday the Supreme Council for the Islamic Revolution in Iraq, which the US said would get assistance, said it did not want any American money.

IN BRIEF

Charter of EU rights planned

PLANS FOR a charter of rights to cover all 370 million European citizens were unveiled yesterday as a centrepiece of Germany's six-month EU presidency. Entitlements for all European nationals would be a significant development towards full EU citizenship.

Savimbi claims vital capture

ANGOLA SLIPPED deeper into war yesterday after Unita rebels led by Jonas Savimbi claimed the capture of a crucial river bridge 30 miles from the northern city of Malanje and the oil town of Soyo. The government is stepping up conscription in the capital, Luanda.

Election landslide in Barbados

THE GOVERNMENT of Barbados has been returned to power with a landslide victory in which it secured 26 of the 28 parliamentary seats. The country has enjoyed five years of economic growth, and the Prime Minister, Owen Arthur, described the victory as an "awesome" responsibility.

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Navy stands by as Freetown suffers

PUBLICITY-CONSCIOUS even down to the prepared press information kit, the Royal Navy, in the shape of the warship Norfolk, sits off Freetown pondering how best one might portray one's role in this particular African humanitarian crisis.

"You wanted to take a photograph of a sailor leaning against a machine-gun on deck?" said Lt-Cdr Alison Fowler, supplies officer with responsibility for public relations. "That really is not the image we need to project. The machine-guns are here to protect us. The ship is here purely in a humanitarian role."

On land, in the smoking capital of Sierra Leone, thousands of people sheltering from bullets and butchery in a football stadium would like to see the fruits of Britain's humanitarian role. Or the vegetables.

There was a press conference here two days ago with talk of 3.3 tonnes of British medical aid. But yesterday all you could get in Siaka Stephens stadium were some anti-malarials and diarrhoea cures from Unicef.

"The 3.3 metric tonnes was made up of stretchers, antibiotics, drips and anaesthetics from Britain," said Richard Powell, executive officer of the Norfolk. "On Wednesday, we delivered them to the health minister in person."

In this conflict, which began with the invasion of Freetown by armed men on January 6, there is little trust. The Nigerians in Ecomog, the West

BY ALEX DUVAL SMITH
in Freetown

African intervention force, are tough soldiers. About 15,000 of them are here, backed by some Ghanaians and Guineans. It is their job to flush out the forces threatening the democratically elected government of President Ahmad Tejan Kabbah.

In a grubby war which has claimed up to 10,000 lives in a fortnight, the British are grateful to the Nigerians and their back-up, the Kamsar, pro-Kabbah hush militia, who take no prisoners.

There is no way any British lives are to be lost to Liberian-backed rebels who are said to ask: "Short sleeves, or long sleeves?" before they cut your arms off above the elbow or above the wrist.

They may be the saviours of ordinary Sierra Leoneans but no one here trusts the Kamsars or the Nigerians any more than they do the Lebanese, those traders known for dabbling in anything West African, from diamonds to shark fins.

The soldiers of Ecomog are underpaid, if at all, by the Nigerian ministry of defence and rely on gifts and kickbacks. That is why Britain is not keen to let Ecomog distribute 3.3 tonnes of medical aid.

Ecomog claims international charities have been aiding the rebels. It even claimed, privately, that the International Red Cross (ICRC) was running arms for the rebels. Publicly, Ecomog said charities had allowed the rebels to use



Soldiers standing guard as food aid shipments are unloaded in Sierra Leone

their satellite phones. So it confiscated the phones, prompting all the medical charities to leave.

There is only one surgeon, Dr Mumba Kawa, still working at Connaught Hospital, Freetown, in a near non-stop struggle

to save lives and limbs. A half in the dilapidated hospital was full of bleeding casualties brought in by Ecomog soldiers.

"I have never seen anything like this since the latest fighting started," said Dr Mumba Kawa, his voice at times

drowned by screams from the operating theatre. "I am very short-staffed. My people have been working very bravely day in, day out. All they are using is local anaesthetics."

Ousman Mbendu, 43, from Kissey, was brought in with a pair

of jeans supporting one arm that was dangling from a slender strip of bone and ligament. The other hand had a deep gash where his watch used to be. Medical staff injected local anaesthesia, then one snipped off the hanging arm with scissors

and tossed it nonchalantly into a bin. On an adjoining operating table a middle-aged man, clearly in shock, yelled: "Please don't cut off my arm. I am a businessman, not a politician." The rebels had already chopped it off.

On the streets of the coastal capital - almost unscathed in the west hut riddled with snipers and attacking rebels in the east and port area - Lebanese traders are accused of cashing in. A chicken that cost 8,000 Leones (£2) last month, is now sold for £16,000.

People are hungry in Siaka Stephens stadium. They are not starving. But they are sick with cholera. There is food in Freetown, even if it comes from warehouses raided by the retreating rebels and sold by their friends.

Britain, by sending the Norfolk has been a "godsend" and "the boost we needed" say the people. Next week, its supply ship, RFA Oak Leaf, arrives, a further sign of Britain's commitment to helping President Kabbah survive without a Sierra Leone army.

Captain Bruce Williams is proud that his 182 crew - plus seven Royal Marines - provide "a presence". He said: "The Government is showing its support for a fledgling democracy and providing hope for Sierra Leone that there are people who care."

But the problem that has reared itself twice in 18 months remains - that Britain is supporting a democrat without an army against "rebels" backed by at least one neighbour, Liberia.

Britain wants to keep its hands clean; the rebels want power and they do not care how many limbs or lives are lost.

Battling Welsh back at Rorke's Drift

BY ED O'LOUGHLIN
in Rorke's Drift

IT IS 120 years since the Welsh soldiers of the 24th Regiment crossed the Buffalo River to destroy the power of the Zulu nation hut the picturesque ford known as Rorke's Drift still marks a frontier of sorts.

To the west lie the green hills of Natal and to the east lies Zululand, home to South Africa's proudest and most conservative tribe. These uplands earned their inhabitants the Nguni name amaZulu, or people of the heavens, but apartheid turned the whole region into a compulsory "homeland" for millions of black South Africans who happened to speak the Zulu tongue. Impoverished villages and mud huts sprawl as far as the eye can see.

So there were plenty of people around yesterday when a detachment of the Royal Regiment of Wales, led by the band of the Prince of Wales Division, marched across the new bridge over Rorke's Drift and - literally - into history.

It was their forebears in the 24th Regiment (later the South Wales Borderers) who 120 years ago today fought two of the British Army's most remarkable battles. The first, Isandhlwana, was the worst defeat in the history of British colonial wars - 1,500 British and colonial troops and their African allies lost their lives, including 600 members of the 24th and six companies of the 2nd Warwickshire Regiment.

The subsequent defence of the mission station of Rorke's Drift by 110 outnumbered British troops, most of them from the 24th Regiment, was a



The Royal Regiment of Wales re-enacting Rorke's Drift

sideshow but led to the awarding of 11 Victoria Crosses, the most for a single engagement. It was dramatised in the film *Zulu*, compulsory viewing for the Royal Regiment of Wales every 22 January.

Yesterday Lieutenant Colonel Iain Cholerton, who marched his men and women from Rorke's Drift to Isandhlwana, said he was deeply proud to bring his regiment back "It is one of my aims to teach them something of the history of the battalion," he said, standing under the grave-strewn slopes of Isandhlwana. "We value this 24 hours of our history more than anything else in our 310-year history."

Today's anniversary will include a re-enactment and speeches by the Zulu king, Goodwill Zwelithini, and his controversial "prime minister" and Zulu nationalist, Chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi.

The Zulus lost 2,500 of their best warriors in the two battles

and their king, Cetshwayo, heaped a pyrrhic victory. The British commander, Lord Chelmsford, blamed himself for exposing the camp at Isandhlwana to the Zulus' surprise attack. The next time he came up against them, at Ulundi, his Maxim guns made sure the Zulus, with their leather shields and spears, would never seriously challenge colonial rule again.

Yesterday morning Rifleman Shadrack Mbatia, a member of South Africa's mainly Zulu 121 Infantry Regiment, stood guard as the unarmed British marched across Rorke's Drift. He was happy to see them, he said, because they reminded him of the great Zulu victory at Isandhlwana. And what if he were called on to defend Zululand again? He smiled. "We aren't here to defend Zululand only but the whole of South Africa. We are all in South Africa together now."

Court frees journalists tortured for coup story

A ZIMBABWEAN court yesterday freed on bail two journalists who had been tortured by military police during illegal detention.

Custom Kambachwa, a magistrate, released Mark Chavunduka, 34, the editor of the independent *Standard* newspaper, and Ray Choto, 36, a reporter. Both had marks left by cigarette burns and electric shocks. About 100 supporters cheered Mr Chavunduka and Mr Choto as they left the courthouse.

The men had been detained after reporting on a suspected coup plot last week. The military's fierce reaction to the report has triggered speculation that a purge may have taken place in the army.

Simon Bull, a lawyer who represents the journalists, said

BY ANGUS SHAW
in Harare

they had been subjected to electric shocks and their heads were submerged in drums of water in a suffocation torture method known as "the submarine". They were also made to roll in wet grass to clean blood from their bodies after being beaten, Mr Bull said.

Mr Kambachwa released the men on 10,000 Zimbabwean dollars (£150) bail to reappear before him on 22 February on charges of publishing falsified information likely to cause fear, alarm and despondency.

Mr Chavunduka was detained last week by the military after his paper said 23 soldiers were arrested on 17 December for allegedly inciting fellow soldiers to overthrow the Presi-

dent, Robert Mugabe. The High Court ruled that the military had no jurisdiction over civilians and threatened to arrest the Defence Minister, Moven Mahachi, if Mr Chavunduka was not handed over to civilian police and charged.

Mr Bull said military intelligence officers told Mr Choto during torture that President Mugabe had signed his death warrant and he was to be killed. Mr Choto said he believed them "because he had been so badly tortured".

The newspaper's publisher, Clive Wilson, said the journalists were tortured to divulge their sources but they gave no information on the origin of the report. "This is absolutely disgraceful, it's like something out of Nazi Germany," Mr Wilson said. (AP)

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صكرا من الامل

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BUSINESS

BRIEFING

Mirror Group opens talks with RIM

MIRROR GROUP yesterday offered to enter into negotiations with Regional Independent Media, the privately-owned regional newspaper publisher, about a possible bid for the company. But the newspaper group also informed RIM that its £913m indicative bid for Mirror was not adequate. Observers said Mirror's offer suggested it was willing to share information about the company with RIM, which is backed by venture capital group Candover, and George Soros, the international financier. Trinity, the rival newspaper group, is currently considering whether to increase its own indicative bid for Mirror.

BAe talks offer spurned



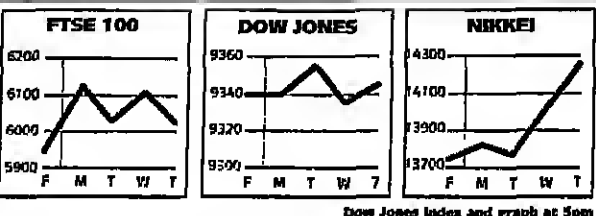
DAIMLERCHRYSLER Aerospace yesterday spurned an offer, backed by Prime Minister Tony Blair (left), of renewed talks with British Aerospace. "If the BAe/GEC merger goes ahead as announced a balanced horizontal European structure, like Dasa/BAe, would be made impossible," a Dasa spokesman said. Mr Blair told the German

Chancellor, Gerhard Schröder, that he would support a resumption of talks between BAe and Dasa. BAe also said backed the long-term consolidation of the European defence industry, but declined to comment on specific plans to make further contact with Dasa.

Warning on pensions reform

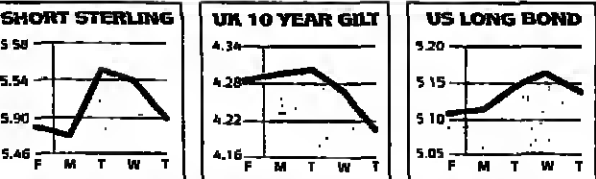
The National Association of Pension Funds warned that the Government's plans for pension reform could lead hundreds of thousands of pension savers worse off and may lead to mis-selling. The NAPF said the Green Paper on pensions, subject to consultation until the end of March, "does nothing to encourage people to join occupational schemes. You might find people picking up a stakeholder pension and ending up with worse incomes as a result".

STOCK MARKETS



Index	Close	Change	52 wk high	52 wk low	Vol
FTSE 100	6022.30	+43.80	6195.60	4599.20	2.63
FTSE 250	4875.80	+5.10	5070.80	4347.60	3.39
FTSE 350	2830.00	-34.70	2969.10	2210.40	2.79
FTSE All Share	2729.03	-31.54	2886.52	2143.53	2.84
FTSE SmallCap	2105.30	-2.80	2273.00	1834.40	3.82
FTSE Fledgling	1182.70	0.10	1517.10	1046.20	4.24
FTSE AIM	820.30	2.10	1146.50	761.30	1.21
FTSE Europe 100	3793.23	-38.41	3979.77	3018.15	1.10
FTSE Europe 300	3411.21	-15.71	3532.07	280.63	1.02
Dow Jones	9344.92	-8.95	9627.96	7400.30	1.64
Nikkei	14245.42	+17.37	15352.95	12787.90	1.74
Hang Seng	10048.57	-266.32	11926.16	8544.79	2.07
Dax	5196.67	+13.61	5217.83	3833.71	1.67
S&P 500	1248.15	-0.29	1278.05	923.52	1.37
Nasdaq	2379.04	-39.64	2474.38	1357.09	0.95
Toronto 300	6712.90	1.36	7837.70	5920.90	1.61
Brazil Bovespa	7408.88	-280.85	12339.14	4575.69	9.32
Belgium Bel20	3441.63	-49.50	3713.21	2490.76	2.67
Amsterdam AEX	2437.79	-9.39	2601.70	2045.58	1.81
France CAC 40	4154.03	-35.98	4404.94	2881.21	1.84
Millan MIB30	34601.00	-781.00	39170.00	24175.00	1.18
Madrid Ibsc 35	9920.80	-169.30	10989.80	6869.90	1.88
Irish Overall	3306.91	56.05	3581.70	2732.57	1.41
S Korea Comp	582.04	-31.39	651.95	277.37	1.13
Australia ASX	2852.00	-20.70	2902.90	2386.70	3.24

INTEREST RATES



Index	3 month	6 month	1 year	2 year	5 year	10 year
UK	5.79	-1.82	5.43	-2.19	4.20	-1.83
US	4.97	-0.65	5.09	-0.57	4.89	0.85
Japan	0.45	-0.28	0.47	-0.23	1.88	-0.13
Germany	3.05	-0.50	2.99	-0.81	3.66	-1.47

Index	3 month	6 month	1 year	2 year	5 year	10 year
US	5.79	-1.82	5.43	-2.19	4.20	-1.83
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Wolverhampton and Dudley managing director David Thompson (right) with financial director Ralph Findlay after the brewery announced a £288m offer for Marston, Thompson & Evershed yesterday

£288m offer puts W&D on top in contest of Midland brewers

BY FRANCESCO GUERRERA

WOLVERHAMPTON & DUDLEY, the regional brewer, yesterday moved a step closer to winning control of Marston, Thompson & Evershed after raising the offer for its West Midlands rival by over £20m to £288m. Marston, which launched an unprecedented £317m counterbid for W&D earlier this month, rejected the improved bid - a 77 per cent premium to Marston's share price at the start of the takeover war - saying that it was still too low. The bitter two-way battle took a further twist when it emerged that Marston, famous for its Pedigree bitter and Pitcher and Piano pubs, was unlikely to

original £262m bid rejected by Marston in November. He said the bid would "significantly enhance" earnings in the combined group and help it to weather the downturn in the regional brewing market. Shareholders in the two companies said that although W&D's improved offer was lower than expected, it could be enough to win control Marston. "It's not a knock-out blow but I think they'll get it, unless Marston does something clever," one leading investor said. Shares in the two brewers, which have soared since the start of the saga, fell as the market took profits and expressed

Green triumphs in battle for Sears

THE CURTAIN came down on one of the high street's longest running disaster stories yesterday when Sears, the struggling retail group, succumbed to an agreed £548m bid which is likely to see the once-sprawling conglomerate broken up into its constituent parts.

Late yesterday afternoon the Sears board accepted an increased cash offer of 350p per share from a consortium led by Philip Green, the retail entrepreneur and backed by the secretive Barclay brothers. This follows its rejection of an earlier 340p per share offer.

Phillips & Drew, Sears' largest shareholder, with a 22.3 per cent stake, has irrevocably agreed to accept the bid from January Investments, the Barclay's bid vehicle. However, this agreement will cease to be binding in the event of a competing offer of more than 360p.

The deal includes all Sears businesses, which span Freeman's mail order and a string of high street chains including Miss Selfridge, Adams, Richards, Wallis and Warehouse. Mr Green is expected to line up an early sale of Freeman's, possibly to Otto Versand of Germany for around £150m. The Creation charge card business will still be sold for £141m.

Mr Green was in upbeat mood yesterday after his victory. Speaking from the Dorchester Hotel in London where he has been staying during the bid battle, he said: "It's been a long two weeks. I'm tired but happy that we've got there in the end. I think we would have got there at 340p to be honest, but it was worth going that extra mile."

Mr Green had dinner with Sir Bob Reid, the Sears chairman at the Dorchester on Thursday night where they agreed terms. Mr Green said the deal was "very cordial". The final points were agreed yesterday by separate negotiating teams at Sears head office near Oxford Street.

"The increased offer represents a fair deal for shareholders and is in line with the board's strategy to return value to them," Sir Bob said. This was ridiculed by analysts. One said: "It is pathetic but will we miss Sears? No we won't. Good riddance to it."

The deal marks the end of an era for one of Britain's best-known companies. Sears was founded in 1908 by John Sears and transformed in the 1950s by Charles Clow. Though best known as a shoe retailer with names such as Freeman Hardy Willis, Sarsone and Dolcis, its interests at one stage also spanned engineering, a shipbuilding company, William Hill bookmakers, Mappin & Webb jewellers, Lewis's department stores and a 20 per cent stake in Asprey, the Bond Street jeweller.

In addition to Sears, Mr Green's retail interests include the Mark One discount clothing chain, Owen Owen department stores and Shoe Express, bought from Sears. He also brokered the deal which saw Sports Division buy Olympus Sports from Sears for a knock-down price.

Mr Green will have a 20 per cent in Sears but says that he has no plans to return to the stock market: "That's not my best vacation." Sears shares closed 7p higher at 354.5p.

Service sector growth stalled

BY LEA PATERSON

THERE WAS fresh evidence of a slowdown in the services sector yesterday, fuelling speculation that today's crucial growth figures will show that the economy stagnated towards the end of last year. In the fourth quarter of 1998, service sector firms experienced their lowest growth in domestic sales and orders for six years, according to the latest British Chambers of Commerce survey. Calling for another half point reduction in interest rates, Dr Ian Peters, the BCC's deputy director general, said: "The economic outlook is now finely balanced with the odds on recession or recovery too close to call."

The weak service sector figures - coupled with Wednesday's disappointing retail sales data - increased speculation that today's key GDP numbers will show that UK economic growth ground to a halt in the last quarter of 1998. Richard Iley at ABN Amro said: "This survey confirms that fourth quarter GDP will be soft."

However, there was a glimmer of hope for UK manufacturers - a slight improvement in both manufacturing confidence and sales overseas, after a sustained period of decline. Dr Peters said: "Recent cuts in interest rates and improved export prospects have given manufacturing a fillip."

Separate figures from the consultancy firm NTC Research also suggested recent rate cuts had stemmed the slide in confidence. The NTC Consumers' Industries Indicator increased marginally for the second successive month, following an up turn in both consumer confidence and the output of consumer industries. Meanwhile new borrowing figures revealed that net mortgage lending by the major banks rose by a record £1.2bn in December, a surge attributed to a combination of refinancing and a shift in market share.

Total sterling lending to the M4 private sector rose by a larger-than-expected £5.5bn in December but analysts said that these figures had few policy implications.

Soros warns of stock market bubble in US and Europe

BY LEA PATERSON

GEORGE SOROS, the renowned currency speculator, yesterday warned of new threats to international financial markets and criticised government handling of the crisis in Brazil. His comments came as the Brazilian real plunged to a record low against the dollar, sparking renewed investor concerns about the country's financial health.

Speaking via a satellite link at a conference in Paris, Mr Soros argued that a speculative bubble was developing in Western financial markets. The flood of funds from the emerging markets to the developed economies had led to high stock market valuations in the US and Europe, according to Mr Soros. "I see the development of an asset bubble as the next major threat to the system," he said.

The billionaire financier criticised the reaction of the Brazilian authorities to the country's economic crisis. "The Brazilian government was badly advised in raising rates after the devaluation of the real," he said.

However, he added that, in the medium term, Brazil should be able to work through its economic woes. "If you take a longer term view, two to three years, the situation in Brazil is not as serious as one might think," Mr Soros said.

His comments came as concerns over the physical stock of dollars in Brazil prompted sharp falls in the value of the real. The real plunged 8.5 per cent to 1.715 to the dollar following reports that Brazilian banks were running short of foreign exchange.

Capital flight from the crisis-hit economy has averaged more than \$500m a day so far this year. The central bank - which itself has only limited reserves - has refused to inject liquidity in the system following its decision last week to let the real float freely against the dollar.

"If dollar flows aren't reversed, the dollar supply is just going to dry up," said Odair Abate, an economist at Lloyds Bank. The sliding real hit sentiment on the Brazilian stock market, where the benchmark Bovespa index fell for the first time in five days.

Even Congress's approval on Wednesday night of a key part of the government's fiscal re-

form bill could not halt the slide in stock prices. By the early afternoon, the Bovespa was down almost 4 per cent at 7393.05.

Nick Stamenkovic at Bank Austria Creditanstalt Futures said: "The passage of the fiscal reform bill is a step in the right direction but the market is simply running out of patience."

Economists said continued falls in the real could lead to hyperinflation in Brazil, and might also prompt more states to default on their debt to the federal government.

Currencies elsewhere in Latin America came under pressure amid the renewed Brazilian concerns. Speaking at a seminar in Tokyo, Barton Biggs, chairman and global strategist of Morgan Stanley Dean Witter Investment Management, said: "The creeping deflation that began in Asia has continued to spread around the world. It has claimed another victim in Brazil. I'm very afraid it's going to claim other victims in Latin America, and the most obvious one is Argentina."

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AROUND THE WORLD'S MARKETS

LONDON

EQUITIES WERE ruffled by the signs of a division between President Bill Clinton and US banking chief Alan Greenspan and a sell-off of US internet shares. Worries about big full year provisions at ESBIC also unsettled the stock market and the Footsie ended 83.3 points down at 6,022.3p. Telewest Communications, the cable group, led the retreat, falling 10p to 244p. Unilever, 37.5p at 612.5p, was hit by worries about the impact of the Brazilian devaluation and HSBC gave up 48p at 1,718p. Derek Pain, page 21

NEW YORK

THE DOW JONES Industrial Average moved into negative territory in afternoon trade amid concerns about US corporate earnings and Brazil. The Dow was trading down 39.65 points - or 0.42 per cent - at 9296.26. The Nasdaq Composite Index was down 54.24 points at 2361.25. Communication and technology stocks were among the biggest fallers with shares in Lucent Technologies, the world's largest telephone equipment maker, falling after reporting lower-than-expected revenues.

TOKYO

HOPES FOR a further shake-up in banking stocks boosted blue chip stocks in Tokyo, with the Nikkei 225 closing up 1.6 per cent at 14,245.4. Trading was also helped by the news that Mitsubishi Chemical and Tokyo Tanabe are to merge and that Mitsui Trust & Banking and Chuo Holdings were in talks. "Pension funds and foreigners are increasingly buying shares in the hope that Japan's banking system will be stabilised due to more public fund injections and a drastic shake-up," said Kazuo Mayuzumi at Nikko Securities.

HONG KONG

WORRIES OVER banks' exposure to China and a dimming outlook for interest rates left the blue-chip Hang Seng index down 266 at 10,048.6. Meanwhile, it emerged that a panel of international experts could offer no solutions for the territory's economic woes, but cost it HK\$1.5m. The panel, which included former US Fed chairman, Paul Volcker, and News Corp's chairman, Rupert Murdoch, advised Hong Kong chief Tung Chee-hwa that there was no "magic medicine". HSBC shares fell, page 19

FRANKFURT

GERMANY'S BLUE-CHIP DAX fell 0.65 per cent to 5,163.45, as investors took profits on Deutsche and Dresdner banks, after their recent rebound from the Brazil crisis. The floor-traded DAX was flat at 5,156.67 points. The Xetra DAX set this year's high of 5,442.90 points on 6 January hit. Thursday's profit taking sent Dresdner Bank and Deutsche Bank down 1.4 and 4.24 per cent respectively, while Deutsche Telekom and Mannesmann fell after Wednesday's sharp gains.

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Seven chief executives, still no strategy

ALONGSIDE THE chauffeur-driven car and share options, the chief executive's job at Laura Ashley plainly comes with a personal ejector seat. Certainly it seems that way after yesterday's better of an announcement that the latest incumbent has propelled herself into the stratosphere after just five months in the job. After her marathon slog with the purveyor of flowery clothes and wallpaper, Victoria Egan will land back in the Philippines, from whence she apparently came.

One of the most remarkable things about yesterday's announcement is that it made people realise how little was known about her. Though her name suggests a Sloane Ranger, she is actually a Filipino who married a British businessman. She never gave interviews and was rarely photographed. Her profile has not so much been low as subterranean.

Still, she is no more, and that makes it seven chief executives at good old Laura in the last eight years. Frivolously, the latest convulsion at this corporate disaster story is very bad news for shareholders indeed - yet another chief executive, more management changes.



OUTLOOK

munication and making economies of scale virtually impossible.

Only half-jokingly it is suggested that the company close its remaining stores, change the name to Lashley.com and turn itself into an Internet retailer. Alternatively, shareholders could just pray. You never know. With the TV evangelist "Pat" Robertson joining the board, it might actually work.

Green/Sears

IT IS HARD to know who is more to blame for the appalling undervalue that Sears has been sold for - the management, whose failure over the years both to manage the business and realise its value has been almost total, or the stock market, which has consistently refused to put a realistic break-up value on the group. Whatever the answer, there is little doubt that Philip Green and his financial backers, the Barclay brothers, have got one of the steals of the decade.

Just consider the following back-of-the-envelope calculation. The Creation credit card business is in the process of being sold for £141m, which is quite a lot more than the

stock market thought it was worth. All the same, the deal has been done and is presumably going through.

A year ago, Sears agreed to sell its Freemans mail order company to Littlewoods for £490m, only to be blocked by the Monopolies and Mergers Commission. Freemans is worth more to Littlewoods than to anyone else, and in any case it has since slipped into loss. But even so there remain two potential buyers keen to deal. So let's say Freemans can be sold for £200m. The Sears property portfolio is meanwhile conservatively valued at £150m.

All this virtually covers the costs of Philip Green's bid, leaving a not insubstantial retailing business generating profits of £25m a year for next to nothing. Mr Green is clearly a brilliant wheeler-dealer, but his record of actually running and managing businesses is a good deal more chequered.

So why he sells the retail business too. Whoever named the bid vehicle January Investments Limited must have had a sense of humour, for it has just clinched one of the biggest January sales bonanzas ever. His profit on the whole transaction could be approaching £150m. So why wasn't this value recog-

nised by the stock market? One possible answer is that the market is an imperfect judge of value. But there is a more damning one too. Investors came so much to loathe and despise this company, and its management that they refused to afford it a proper value. Belatedly, but with about as much resolve as a sleeping child, Sears has made a start on its own break-up.

Too little, too late. Sears has been Philip Green's meal ticket for far too long now. First Olympus Sports and then Shoe Express were knocked out to him at what later proved to be bargain basement prices. To have allowed a further £150m of shareholder value to pass into his hands is a terrible indictment of Sir Bob Reid and the rest of the Sears board.

Wolves/Marston

FOR DAVID THOMPSON, managing director of Wolverhampton & Dudley Breweries, this has been a hair-raising couple of weeks. When he launched his bid for Marston, Thompson & Evershed last November, he was aware of the possibility that Marstons would turn

round and bid for him, but he didn't think it likely. Then all of a sudden, he was faced with the possibility of losing his company, which has been in the family for generations. It would be like Rocco losing Forte, only on a smaller scale.

By last night, however, he would have been sleeping a little bit easier. The battle is far from over, but the stock market was strongly indicating that Wolves would win after raising its bid to £289m. The new Wolves bid values each Marston share at 304.5p on last night's closing prices, or not significantly more than the market price of 286.5p. By contrast the Marstons bid for Wolves is valued at 573p a share, a whopping great premium to the Wolves market price of 425p. There is no doubt which bid the market finds more credible.

The market is not always right about these things, but even so, the cards now look to be heavily stacked against the makers of Pedigree bitter. Marstons cannot realistically raise its own share price, which in turn may make its own shareholders more prone to accept the Wolves bid.

Obviously, if you are a shareholder in only one of these companies, the choice is an easy one - you either sell in the market or accept the bid. This is because, the combined value of the group can only be a certain defined amount. The bidder must set his offer at a premium to succeed, so the bidder always ends up with a disproportionately large share of the cake.

For this reason, it makes no sense for Marstons shareholders to reject the bid and accept their board's defence, since inevitably they would end up overpaying for Wolves. The same arguments apply the other way round.

But as if things were not already confusing enough, the holders of 55 per cent of Marstons own 28 per cent of Wolves and visa versa. For these overlapping shareholders, the calculation has to be which bid in aggregate offers them more value.

This is where it begins to get really complicated, since it involves factoring in the amount of debt in each bid, as well as evaluating the claimed value creation of each offer. But initial calculations in the City seem to be coming down in favour of Wolves.

IN BRIEF

Zeneca confident on merger

ZENECA YESTERDAY brushed aside the possibility that its planned £21m merger with Sweden's Astra to form the third-largest drugs group in the world could be derailed by a counter-bid.

Sir David Barnes, the Zeneca chief executive, told reporters that he did not believe the merger would be rejected by the last-ditch intervention of another bidder. Market rumours have suggested that Glaxo Wellcome and SmithKline Beecham, the two UK giants, or the Swiss group Roche could move in for Zeneca.

Sir David's comments came as Zeneca revealed a 5 per cent fall to £817m in re-tax profits in the nine months to the end of September.

Scotland chosen

ISCO SYSTEMS has selected Scotland for its first research and manufacturing facilities outside North America. The plant US Internet group is investing more than £10m in move that will create at least 160 hi-tech jobs.

Sixty staff at the research centre in Edinburgh will develop new Internet software while adapting Isco's products for the European market. The manufacturing facility will allow Cisco to shorten delivery times to European customers.

Eurex shift

UREX, the German-Swiss futures exchange, is preparing to allow London-based firms to become full members next year, according to its chief executive, Dr Jörg Ranke. The move follows complaints from Eurex's 65 London-based members at a meeting with Dr Franke in London yesterday about their second-class status within the exchange.

Dr Franke also said yesterday he was confident of the outcome of a vote at the Chicago Board of Trade on 7 January to agree a global alliance between the Chicago and Frankfurt exchanges, he deal would further dent the ambitions of London's futures exchange, Liffe.

£270m BT order

BRITISH TELECOM yesterday said it had signed a order with the Swedish telecoms group Ericsson AB for the next generation of high-performance switches to help meet rapid data traffic growth in the UK. BT said the supply deal was potentially worth up to £270m and would secure its network capacity into the next millennium.

Debt relief move

IF AGENCIES welcomed an initiative yesterday from the German government to boost debt relief for the world's poorest countries. Gerhard Schröder, the new German chancellor, proposed measures in line with earlier proposals by Gordon Brown, and offered more German funds to allow the IMF to speed up the international debt relief programme.

News Analysis: 'It is quite some achievement. Even football managers last longer'

Egan to leave Laura Ashley

BY NIGEL COPE
Associate City Editor

LAURA ASHLEY, the fashion and home furnishings retailer, stunned the City yet again yesterday when it announced a poor Christmas trading statement and the departure of its latest chief executive after just five months in the job.

Victoria Egan, who was only appointed to the position in August, is leaving for "personal reasons" and is expected to return to her native Philippines. Mrs Egan is being replaced by Kwan Cheong Ng, a director of MUI, the Malaysian retailer which rescued Laura Ashley with a £40m cash injection last year.

He becomes the fifth chief executive at the group in the last five years and the seventh since 1990. As one analyst put it: "It is quite some achievement. Even football managers last longer than this."

Commenting on the sudden departure of the 55-year-old Ms Egan, Laura Ashley's commercial director Stephen Cox said: "We would have liked her to stay. She is a very nice lady." Ms Egan, who is married to a British businessman based in the Philippines, will remain at the company for a few weeks to oversee the handover.

Her contract stipulated that she would receive an annual salary of £200,000 but she will receive no compensation.

The news of her departure pushed the company's shares down 0.5p to 12p, their lowest ever level. The retailer, best known for its trademark floral dresses, is now valued at just £45m. Though the business is now debt-free and has the support of its bankers, City experts are still questioning its future.

"There is no form of management structure there and no consistency. I wouldn't want to hold the shares even at these levels," one said.

Analysts are nervous that the constant upheaval of new management is de-stabilising the business which has been rocked by a series of departures. They are concerned that the company does not seem to have decided whether to concentrate mainly on home furnishings or continue with clothing as well.

Laura Ashley claims that the appointment of Mr Ng as chief executive will be a smooth succession and will not mark a shift in strategy as he was already part of the board that sanctioned a three-part action



Victoria Egan, who has resigned as chief executive of Laura Ashley after five months in charge Jim Winslet

programme. The first was to stabilise the finances. It is now rationalising its American store portfolio and addressing its supply chain and product problems before the final phase of "growing the business." It is pulling out of manufacturing and has closed two factories with others still on the market.

A few months ago around 100 jobs were cut at the group's head office in West London.

Laura Ashley has also appointed two new non-executive directors. One is Kay Peng Khoo, chairman and chief executive of MUI. The other is Marion "Pat" Robertson, an American television evangelist and philanthropist who founded the Christian Broadcasting Network and the Family Channel, a television station.

The news came with a downbeat Christmas trading statement which showed that in the eight weeks to 18 January like for like sales fell by 11 per cent with clothing sales particularly weak. The company says the weaker sales are partly due to lower levels of discounting, which has improved margins by 3 percentage points. The group claims discounting levels now stand at 15.3m, 10 per cent lower than this time last year.

Debits have been eliminated



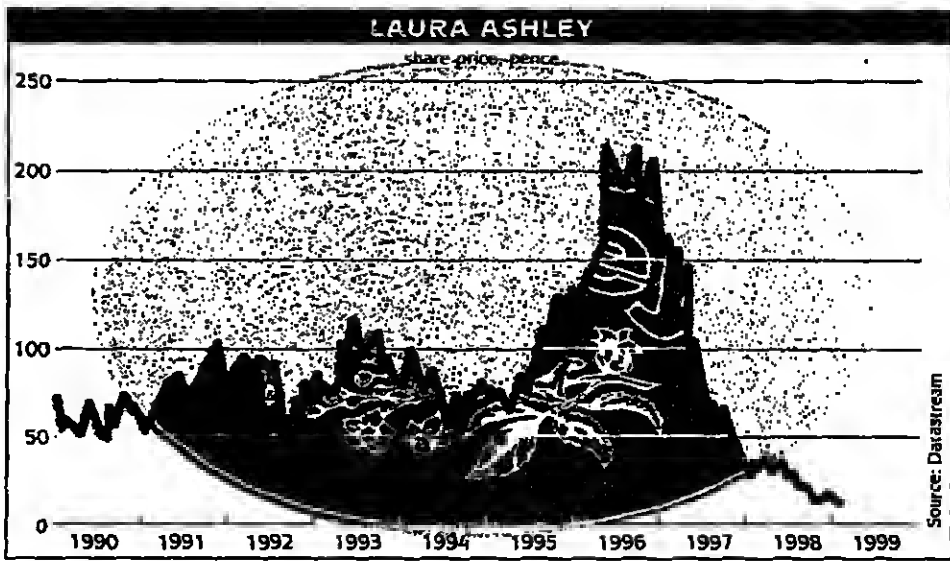
John Thornton: Sat on the board since 1995



Ann Iverson: Ousted after expansion plan failure



Sir Bernard Ashley: No longer on the board



God's gift to fading fashion house

LAURA ASHLEY has had a few high profile directors in its time but few have been as colourful as "Pat" Robertson, who was announced as a non-executive of the struggling retailer yesterday.

Marion Gordon Robertson, nicknamed "Pat", is a TV evangelist, philanthropist and businessman who unsuccessfully challenged George Bush for the Republican Party's presidential nomination in 1988.

A noted media pioneer, he

is the founder and chairman of the Christian Broadcasting Network. He is also the founder of the Family Channel, a US TV channel and the Regent University in Virginia.

His Christian Broadcast Network runs a web site called The 700 club with Pat Robertson Yesterday's lead issue was "America's Moral Crisis".

This said that "one of the largest moral crises we face in America is the proliferation of tolerance for immoral sexual

behaviour. This is evident everywhere we turn - premarital sex, marital infidelity, homosexuality..."

Laura Ashley directors said Mr Robertson did not have any direct retail experience but that this would not necessarily be a problem.

"He is an incredibly successful businessman both in the US and internationally," the company said. "He has terrific business acumen and will be a great asset."



'Pat' Robertson: He will be a 'great asset'

Nissan calls for euro entry after UK profits tumble

BY MICHAEL HARRISON

THE JAPANESE car maker, Nissan, yesterday called for early British entry into the euro, after disclosing that the strong pound had wiped out more than half the profits of its Sunderland plant last year.

Profits at Nissan Motor Manufacturing UK fell to about £35m in 1998 compared with £77m the previous year, even though the Wearside factory is now rated as the most efficient

car plant in Europe. Nissan said that most of the damage to profits was caused by the strength of sterling which forced it to cut selling prices abroad.

Calling on the Government to commit itself to membership of the single currency, Sir Ian Gibson, vice president for manufacturing of Nissan in Europe, said: "We do not see much

future for the UK in staying outside the euro."

Last year, production of Primaras and Micras at the Sunderland plant reached a record 289,000 of which 75 per cent was exported.

"There is no doubt that having two of our best selling models sourced from Sunderland was painful," Sir Ian added. Despite this, the UK remained one of the few profitable mar-

kets for the troubled Japanese car maker, whose worldwide losses reached £173m for the first six months of the year.

This, coupled with £12.5bn of interest bearing debts has forced Nissan, Japan's second biggest car maker, to seek alliances with other car makers.

There is persistent speculation that Nissan will be taken over by a combination of Ford, DaimlerChrysler and Renault

and earlier this week the company conceded that it was prepared to sell a majority stake.

Sir Ian refused to comment on merger speculation but Nissan executives voiced confidence that the Sunderland plant would not be affected by the parent company's troubles.

Investment in the plant will rise to £1.5bn this year with a £215m expansion to enable the manufacture of a third model -

a replacement for the Almera. This will see production next year rise to about 350,000 and the workforce increase by a further 800 to 5,000.

Nissan aims to increase European sales to 600,000 by 2002 and 70 per cent of those cars will be sourced from the UK. John Cushnaghan, managing director of NMUK, said: "Sunderland is critical to Nissan's European operation. But

we have told the workforce that if we take our eye off the ball this year we will suffer for it in 2000."

Despite the strong pound, Nissan said it had no plans to shift component sourcing abroad. "I don't subscribe to the theory that you change suppliers just because of exchange rates. It could make a monkey of you the next day," said Mr Cushnaghan.

Spottiswoode may quit after just three months with Enron

CLARE SPOTTISWOODE, Britain's former gas industry regulator, is discussing a departure from Enron's European water company, Azurix, less than three months after joining the US group as its senior vice president of regulatory affairs for Europe.

Ms Spottiswoode, who stepped aside as director general of gas supply last October, was awarded a CBE in the New Year Honours List for her four year stint. Her current destination however remains a mystery. Analysts speculated that she may be seeking to rejoin the gas sector with a big company appointment.

Enron, the American energy giant, created Azurix by buying Wessex Water for £1.4bn last July. A spokeswoman for Azurix said yesterday: "Clare Spottiswoode and Azurix have been in discussions about opportunities with another organisation."

"The organisation is not within Enron. The talks are very preliminary and have not been finalised. It would not be appropriate to comment further at this time."

Some City analysts speculated that Ms Spottiswoode may have fallen out with Rebecca Mark, Azurix's Texan chairman and chief executive, who like the former regulator is a strong character.

The Azurix spokeswoman said, however: "We're very pleased with Clare. Obviously business opportunities do pop up from time to time and they do need to be pursued."

The spokeswoman added

BY JOHN WILLCOCK

that Ms Spottiswoode, who joined Azurix last October, is still an Enron employee. Azurix has headquarters in both London and Houston.

Enron has already built gas-fired power stations in the UK, such as the one at the ICI plant at Wilton on Teesside and last summer it launched a pan-European water subsidiary, Azurix. Ms Spottiswoode was hired to deal with regulatory issues arising in its target areas of expansion, including Europe, the Middle East and Far East.

The departure of a senior regulator to a company operating in a heavily regulated industry caused raised eyebrows in Westminster and Whitehall when it was announced last autumn but Ms Spottiswoode's job at Azurix was cleared by the Nolan Committee, which oversees job moves by former senior civil servants.

Enron was at the forefront of last year's lobbying campaign by the gas-fired power generators against the Government's moratorium on building gas-fired stations, in an attempt to protect Britain's remaining coal mining industry. The company has applications outstanding to build another two gas-fired stations in the UK.

Coincidentally the power industry is also awaiting Stephen Littlechild's next move, now that he has finished as the electricity industry's regulator at Oftec. There is speculation that he may join an electricity group of some kind.



The former gas regulator Clare Spottiswoode who, City analysts are speculating, may be seeking a job in the gas industry

HSBC hit by report predicting huge Thai loan loss

BY ANDREW GARFIELD

SHARES IN HSBC, the international banking giant, suffered a sharp fall in London and Hong Kong yesterday after the prestigious *Wall Street Journal* claimed that the bank was about to disclose huge losses on its "S3bn Thai loan portfolio", when it publishes its 1998 results next month.

John Bond, who recently took over as the bank's chairman from the legendary Sir William Purves, was said to be angry and upset that the report, which was based on interviews that he and other senior bank executives gave in November, had appeared when the bank was in close season and unable to respond officially.

He was on his way to a board meeting at HSBC's American arm yesterday.

The report, some details of which were unofficially contradicted by bank spokesmen, sparked a three per cent fall in HSBC's shares in Hong Kong, threatening at one point to drive Hoog Kong's Hang Seng index below the 10,000 level.

In London HSBC opened five per cent down, before recovering later to close at £17.18, a fall of 48p.

Eyebrows were raised at the bank by the fact that *The Wall Street Journal* referred to S3bn in loans to Thailand, when the latest published data show that the total level of loans to that country was \$2.3bn at the half year, down from \$2.8bn at the end of 1997.

One source at HSBC said privately last night: "We have not felt the need to make a statement. No-one here has been on alert to expect a serious issue. There are no fire engines running."

Analysts are already expecting bad loan provisions to have risen by up to 150 per cent because of continued problems in Hoog Kong and Asia generally, areas which have historically been the biggest generator of profits for the bank. The group, which last year was the world's most profitable bank, is expected to report profits down by up to 18 per cent at \$6.7bn.

Slow Christmas blamed for drop in Hamleys' sales

THE HAMLEYS chief executive, Chris Ash, yesterday blamed weak sales at Toys-tack, the group's mass-market toy retailer, as it reported a 2.4 per cent fall in overall sales in the 24 weeks to 16 January - traditionally its busiest period.

BY ANDREW GARFIELD
Financial Editor

at the group's flagship Regent Street store, where sales were up 3.7 per cent, with pre-Christmas sales up 12 per cent on the same period the year before.

House of Toys, the group's Debenhams' concession, also disappointed with a 14 per cent

drop in half year sales. Mr Ash said there were clear signs that consumers were holding back from spending before Christmas in order to take advantage of lower prices after the holiday period.

Sales in the three weeks after Christmas have been up, with Hamleys showing an 8 per cent increase and Toys-tack

and House of Toys reporting rises of 6 per cent and 19 per cent respectively. "Overall trading has been difficult in an increasingly competitive environment," Mr Ash said.

Blacks Leisure, the sports and outdoor clothing retailer which also gave a trading update yesterday spoke too of a late rally in sales in Decem-

ber and January. But that still left like-for-like sales down 1 per cent overall in the second half, with First Sport being hit particularly hard by the price war that has broken out with its competitors.

The problems at Marks & Spencer continued to weigh on William Baird, the clothing supplier, which warned that prof-

its for the year would be "not less than" £30m, down from £33.4m in 1997. Baird is blaming the knock-on effects of problems at Marks & Spencer, one of its biggest customers.

Analysts had been expecting profits of around £34m for 1998. The chief executive, David Suddens, said that improvements elsewhere in the busi-

ness will not be enough to make up for the dent in profits that have been caused by the production cut backs at the business supplying the problem-hit High Street retailer.

Sales were down 4 per cent compared to the year before, Baird said. The group closed two factories late last year with the loss of 477 jobs.

Internet star performer to set up British version of site

BY PETER THAL LARSEN

THEGLOBE.COM, the Internet company which was one of the most successful stock market flotations of all time, is planning to set up a British version of its site in an attempt to attract more regular users from outside the United States.

The company, which operates a virtual Internet community offering news, electronic shopping and chat, is planning to link up with UK telecoms and media groups to provide distribution and content for the site.

"We are looking for strategic partners in the UK," Todd Krizelman, theglobe.com's co-chief executive, said yesterday. "One of the most critical factors is to build our brand awareness as quickly as possible."

Although it was only set up four years ago, theglobe.com is one of the fastest-growing Internet websites in the world, currently attracting more than 8 million regular users. Of these 40 per cent are from outside the US.



Looking for partners: Stephan Paternot (left) and Todd Krizelman yesterday

Last year, it attracted the headlines when its share price rose sixfold on its first day of trading on Nasdaq, making paper multi-millionaires of Mr Krizelman and his co-founder Stephan Paternot, both of whom are in their mid-twenties. Although the shares have fallen back slightly, they are still trading at more than four times their issue price of \$9, valuing

the company at almost \$450m. In the US, theglobe.com has linked up with large media groups such as Fox and Reuters to supply oews and other content to its site. It now hopes to sign up similar groups in the UK. Mr Paternot said the company was also seeking a telecom group which could help promote and distribute its site. The company is competing

with large Internet "portals" such as AOL and Yahoo! to be the destination of choice for regular Internet surfers. It can then charge advertisers and online retailers for access to its audience. Portals including Yahoo and Excite, the group which this week was taken over by high-speed Internet supplier At Home, already have specific UK sites.

Mr Krizelman stressed it was imperative to build up a brand name quickly. "In this market, which is moving in light years, time is of the essence," he said, arguing that once people were used to a certain site they were less likely to switch to another one.

Mr Paternot defended the high valuations attached to Internet stocks, which analysts have been warning are unsustainable. "There are 100 million Net users at the moment and another 6 billion to go," he said. "If we can reach them in the next five or ten years the value to be had is massive."

Arcadia job cuts perk up shares

SHARES IN Arcadia, the Burton's, Top Shop and Dorothy Perkins stores chain, bounced 25 per cent after the group announced 300 job cuts at group headquarters yesterday.

The market was also cheered by the news that like-for-like sales fell by only 1.9 per cent over the half year including the Christmas period, which in the current climate is regarded as a good result.

The City had been primed to expect a sales fall of as much as 4 per cent after the disastrous performance from Marks & Spencer and Storehouse last week.

The market had also feared there were further shocks in store after last month's warning, which led City analysts to slash profits by 30 per cent.

BY ANDREW GARFIELD
Financial Editor

"The market is relieved that they are not another Marks & Spencer," one analyst said yesterday.

Nigel Hall, Arcadia's finance director said that, unlike some of its main high street competitors, Arcadia had not had to bring forward its sales and start discounting before Christmas.

"To have come through the period we have with the figures we've had is something we are very pleased about," he said. "When Marks & Spencer, the biggest player in the clothing sector, is in distress, it is hugely disruptive."

He added: "This has been the toughest Christmas trading season that anyone in this business can remember."

The job cuts and the recruitment freeze will cost

£3.5m to implement but will result in savings of £8m in a full year.

The group said although sales through high street outlets were down, home shopping - which includes sales of the Hawkeshead and Racing Green brands - were up by 37 per cent while Internet sales are forecast to go above £1m for the first time this year.

Arcadia shares closed up 30.5p at 187.5p.

COMPANY RESULTS					
Name	Turnover (£)	Pre-tax (£)	EPS	Dividend	Pay day
Alldon (F)	20.59m (21.56m)	0.376m (0.867m)	8.1p (23.8p)	3.5p (2.5p)	18.03.99
Division Group (F)	6.02m (6.68m)	-3.84m (-1.78m)	-7.5p (-4.1p)	-	-
JWE Telecom (F)	12.11m (10.98m)	0.414m (0.394m)	1.52p (1.54p)	0.55p (-)	05.04.99
Lockhart (F)	584.48m (613.35m)	8.5m (8.01m)	15.5p (15.5p)	30.04.99	08.04.99
Johns Warehouse (F)	605.5m (711.8m)	3.2m (3.2m)	2.5p (1.2p)	4.8p (4.5p)	08.04.99
WV Chemical (F)	70.4m (61.85m)	4.37m (3.64m)	20.97p (17.52p)	5.25p (4.70p)	09.04.99
Wiggins Group (F)	5.3m (9.8m)	0.634m (1.12m)	0.08p (0.10p)	-	08.03.99

(F) - Final (I) - Interim

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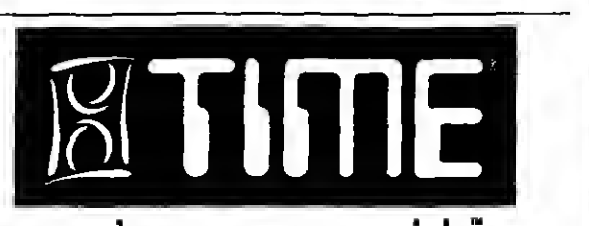
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1. *Journal of the American Medical Association*, 1997; 277: 1001-1005.

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SPORT

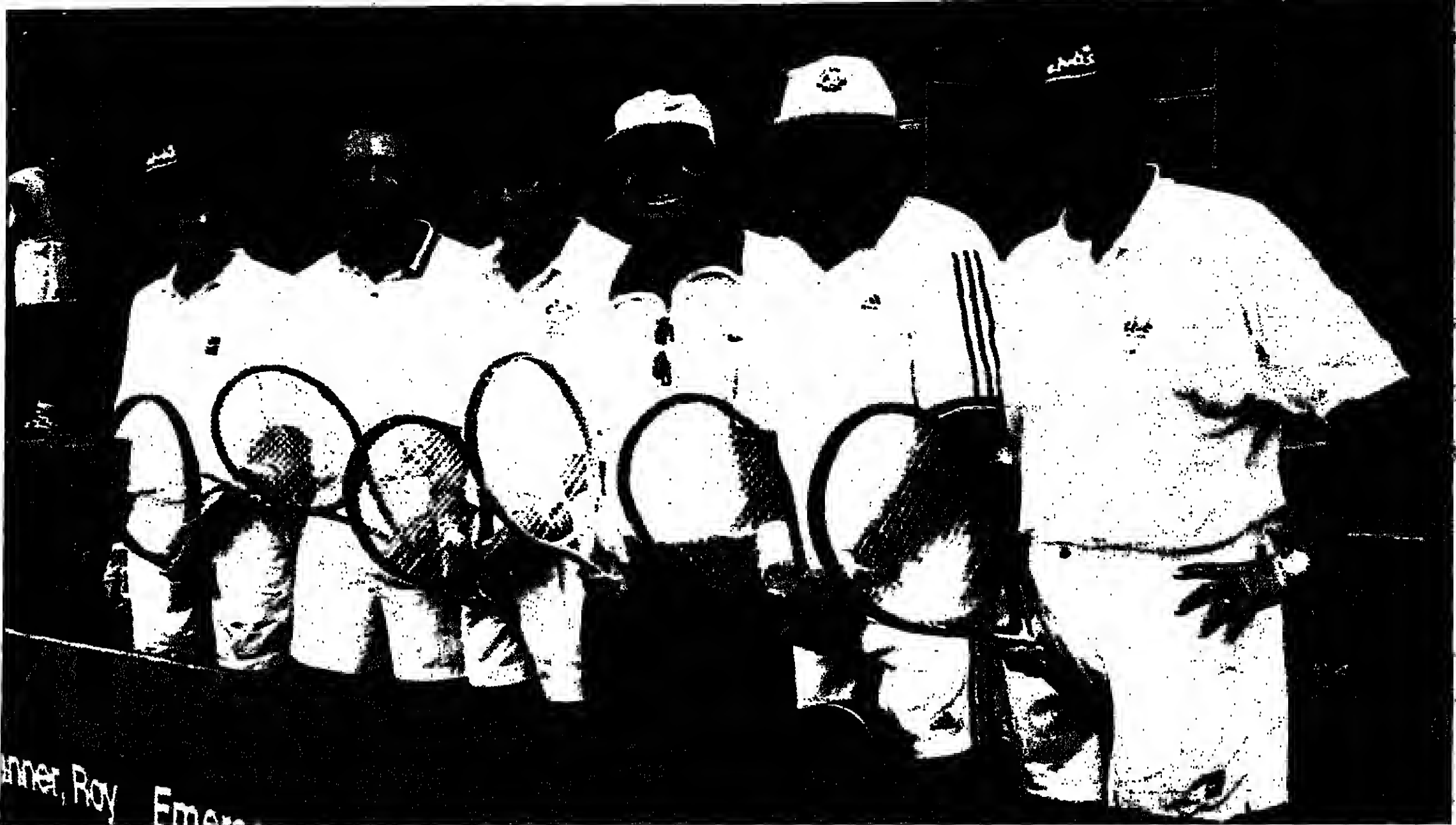
Tennis: 'If the Grand Slam record is important to Pete, then he has to win one this year' says the great Australian
Emerson's warning for SamprasIAN
STAFFORD

THAT PETE SAMPRAS is missing from the Australian Open provided every other top player with an improved chance of securing one of the world's major tournaments. What may not have been considered quite as much is that the American's absence gives Sampras one fewer opportunity to equal the record of Grand Slam singles titles.

This, still, is held by Roy Emerson, the big, burly Australian with the ferocious backhand and fiercely competitive spirit. He believes that time is running out for the 27-year-old Sampras. "If the Grand Slam record is important to Pete, then he has to win one this year," he believes. "It's getting harder and harder for him and, although you have to still fancy him at Wimbledon, he can't afford to lose out at too many more Grand Slam tournaments."

In a career that spanned the circuit for 14 years, beginning in 1954, Emerson won 12 Grand Slam singles titles. He was no mean doubles player either, picking up a further 16 titles in Grand Slam tournaments. He cannot see his collective record ever being broken. "I think my 28 titles will be there for kingdom come," he says. "But, if my singles record is there to be matched, Pete [who is one behind] has got to get a move on." Emerson, now 62, is keeping a close watch on proceedings from one of his three homes in Newport Beach, California, Gstaad, in Switzerland, and Aventura, Florida, where he is the director of tennis at Williams Island. He still plays and, indeed, featured in the recent St Lucia Tennis Legends Tournament at the Odyssey International. "I'd like to hold the singles record forever," he is more than happy to admit. "But if I am to share it, or lose it to someone, I'd be happy if it was Sampras."

Why? "I just think he's been a terrific ambassador for the sport," Emerson explains. "He conducts himself in the right way both on and off the court, and I like his graceful style. At least compared to others today."



Roy Emerson (right), the winner of 12 Grand Slam singles titles, lines up with fellow tennis veterans (from left) Ross Case, Roger Taylor, Roscoe Tanner, Tom Okker and Ilie Nastase in St Lucia while (below) the player in his pomp: "There's no question in my mind that the likes of myself, Laver, Sedgeman, Hoad, Rosewall, would, if we played the stars today, have lived with them" David Pusch

This is a veiled criticism, of course, of the thumping show of strength on the courts today, especially from the men. "I think the new racquets have definitely improved the women's game, but they have also taken away far too much finesse from the men's game," he says. "It has become too repetitious, and the men just don't have to work so hard for their points anymore. Tennis is not the exciting spectacle it once was."

Like, perhaps, in Emerson's day? Most would argue that the great players of the 1950s, 60s and even the 70s would struggle to keep up with today's stars. They would simply be overpowered by the strength and speed of the champions of the 1990s. The six times former winner of the Australian Open, and twice winner of Wimbledon, the US and French Opens, disagrees.

"There's no question in my mind that the likes of myself, Laver, Sedgeman, Hoad, Rosewall, Santana and so on would, if we played the stars today, have lived with them, maybe even beaten them. We might have been asked to stay back more on the baseline than we did, and develop top-spin more, but we would have coped with that, no problem. I don't believe they are any fitter today. Don't forget, we never had any tie-breaks, and every game was played to the best of five sets."

"What I will say is that the players today are asked to perform on all kinds of surfaces that beat up your body more. I wouldn't have enjoyed that. Also, the variety of surfaces poses more questions."

"When I was at my height three of the four Grand Slam tournaments were played on grass. Only the French Open

was on clay. It took me a long time to get to grips with a clay court. I was pitiful to begin with. In the end, I probably preferred it to grass. These days the players have to adapt to grass, clay, rubber and hard court. You probably have to be more of a complete player."

"I will also concede that the competition is stiffer. In my day the top 20 was dominated by Australian and American players. Now the Europeans and South Americans are also strong."

Which is why Emerson feels that the domination Sampras has enjoyed for so much of the 1990s has come to an end. "I think he has to win a Grand Slam this year, or not at all," he says. "Now that the Australian's gone, I think Wimbledon will be his best, possibly his last, chance to equal my record."

It's getting to the stage where I can't see him beating it, although it is up to him.

"Pete's made a lot of good money, and achieved everything there is to in the game. The question is, is he prepared to endure the daily grind required to be a defending champion who has already climbed the mountain?"

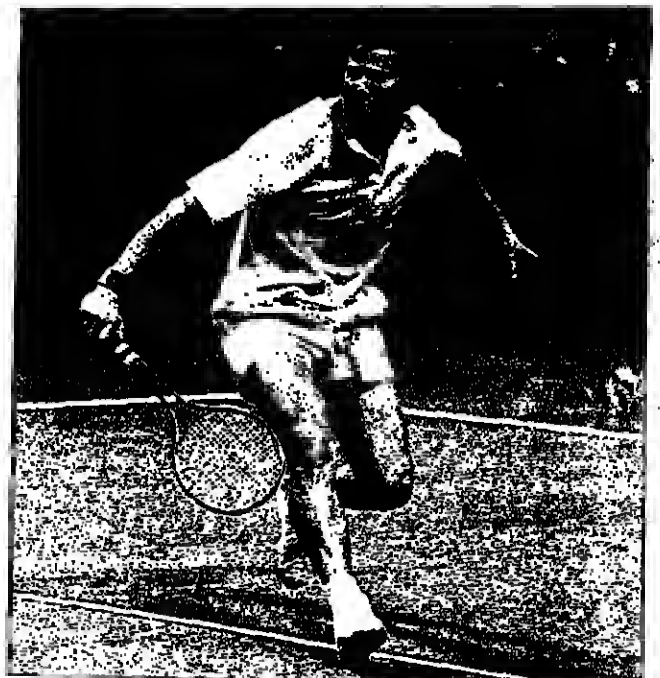
"Others are catching him up, or have already caught him. A lot of the boys think they can beat him now. Whenever they play Pete they feel they have nothing to lose and raise their game. Losing to Pete is not a disaster, so everyone plays well against him. It's a terrific effort to be the world No 1 for six, consecutive years, but the bottom line is that he doesn't intimidate players anymore."

Emerson played in a time recognised to be one of the great periods of world tennis. Of

all the great players he faced and beat, he still, not surprisingly, rates his countryman, Rod Laver, to be the best.

"I tried to emulate Frank Sedgeman in the way I played," he admits. "But, for me, Laver was the best. He possessed more skills and strokes than the others, but what really made him stand out was his mental strength. Laver was never beaten until the final point had been lost. He became even tougher once he turned professional. I would have loved to have seen him take on the likes of Sampras. Then again, I'd like to be playing the game today as well. Maybe Laver and I could have added a little finesse."

Maybe it's still not too late? Emerson laughs. "My forehead these days is pathetic," he says. "But I'll tell you something. I still never miss a backhand."

**Goldstein's dramatic introduction**

"SO WHO'S Paul Goldstein?" he was asked at a press conference. "Paul Goldstein is from Rockville, Maryland. He has two of the most supportive parents in the world, two wonderful brothers and he's feeling pretty good right now," he shot back.

Goldstein has hung out with Tiger Woods, counts Chelsea Clinton as a friend, quotes John McEnroe and beat Greg Rusedski at the Australian Open yesterday.

"He's been playing for five or six months on the professional tour and, yes, he's feeling pretty good right now," Goldstein said of himself after scheming, running and diving his way to a 6-4, 6-7, 7-6, 6-2 victory over the Briton in their second-round match.

A little-known American with some famous friends has overcome Greg Rusedski. By Derrick Whyte

Goldstein, 22, who has a degree in human biology from Stanford University, said he had delayed his entrance to the tennis tour until he felt mature enough.

He is from Rockville, Maryland, and was a school-mate of the president's daughter, who cheered him on at a tournament in Washington last July.

At Stanford, McEnroe's alma mater, he helped its tennis team to four consecutive NCAA titles. When Goldstein was asked to explain how some decent results in Challengers and an unspectacular college career can lead a man to beat

a top-10 player in only his 10th tour-level match, he merely said: "Your guess is as good as mine."

What Goldstein achieved by staying in school instead of taking his light frame on to the tour as a teen was to prepare himself away from the spotlight.

"My body still has a lot of maturing to do," Goldstein said. "And at the point of 18, 19, 20 I just don't think I was ready for the rigours of the tour, either physically or mentally."

He was forced to come through qualifying to make the main draw at the Australian

Open, his first Grand Slam experience outside of three brief trips to Flushing Meadows. Last year, he took a set off Pete Sampras, the world No 1, in the second round of the US Open.

At 5ft 10in and 11st 1lb, Goldstein is a junior middleweight to the 6ft 4in, 13st 8lb heavyweight Rusedski. But, when it came to serve, it was a contest between a flyweight and a heavyweight.

While Rusedski kept pounding serves of around 128 mph, Goldstein replied with modest efforts peaking with a best of 109 mph. So the American had

to use his Stanford brain instead of his less-than-powerful arms. "I kind of went in with the approach that a made return was a good return," he said.

"He's got a world-class serve, one of the top two or three in the game. I just relied on my counter punching and scrambling on the return games."

Without power, Goldstein needed accuracy on his serve. He spent a lot of time tumbling around as Rusedski attacked him, but seemed to enjoy it.

"That Rebound Ace [the playing surface] has a nice little cushion and I was thinking I might have some bloody marks, but after the first one it didn't hurt too bad."

Goldstein said he has a long way to go before he has the



Goldstein: Tactics

earning power of a Woods or the game of a McEnroe. It's a good start to a career, but it's also something more. "Tennis is a fun game," he told reporters. "You guys all should play."

Kournikova's faulting farce

THE WOMEN'S Tennis Association does not keep records for double faults, but Anna Kournikova must be pretty close to setting one. The 18-year-old Russian, who normally makes the news because of her good looks and powerful all-court game, hit 21 double faults in her 1-6, 6-4, 10-8 victory over Miho Saeki of Japan yesterday.

Added to the 26 she served in her first-round match against the American Jill Craybas, it makes a staggering 57 for the Australian Open in Melbourne, in addition to the 34 she served in two matches in Sydney last week - 91 for the year so far in just four matches.

It was one of most feeble and unintentionally comical matches of all time, and the packed crowd groaned and booed, laughed and whistled through every excruciating moment. That Kournikova won illustrated the way both players performed. Between them they made 149 unforced errors with 21 breaks of service.

After dropping the first set against the 80th-ranked Japanese, Kournikova rallied to take the second and open up a 5-0 lead in the third. She then had two match points but blew them both - on double faults.

The problem started in October at successive tournaments in Flindersburg and Zurich when she started averaging 15 double faults per match. Then,

she looked close to tears, but in Melbourne she seems relaxed about her serving displays.

"It has been happening for a while, so I am kind of used to it," she said with a smile. "I'm really frustrated with it, just like everybody who is watching. In practice I feel fine, I serve normal, and there's no sign of double faults - it's just when I come to the line, when I play, there's something happening, so I'm just going to have to get over it and try to fight through."

While Kournikova scraped through the No 4 seed, Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario, crashed out 6-2, 6-2 to Barbara Schett, the Austrian prospect who came within two points of beating Martina Hingis in Sydney last week. Schett humbled the reigning French Open champion, and suggested afterwards that the Spaniard was getting left behind by today's generation of power players. "I don't think you'll see too many new players who play like her," she said.

Steffi Graf also lost the opening set before coming through against Barbara Schwartz. It was relatively comfortable again for Monica Seles and the defending champion, Martina Hingis. Seles stretched her unbeaten record in the championship to 30 matches by beating Alexia Dechaume-Balleret while Hingis, chasing her third successive title, defeated the qualifier Elena Dementieva.

Agassi's progress hints at former glories

ANDRE AGASSI showed he is ready to make the most of a potentially trouble-free route to the Australian Open semi-finals when he beat the Czech Slave Dosedel 7-4, 6-2, 6-0 yesterday. The American fifth seed and 1995 champion produced glimpses of his former brilliance as he grew in confidence after a slightly subdued start to reach the third round.

"It took me a while to settle into the match and then it felt quite good," Agassi said.

Perhaps most significant was the way he was able to combat the Czech's serve in a

By DERRICK WHYTE

performance evoking memories of a few years ago when the Las Vegas had a reputation as the best service returner in the game. Last year Agassi came to Melbourne looking a shadow of his former self but still managed to reach the fourth round as he attempted to battle back from the low point of his career in late 1997.

Then, he had slipped to No 141 and the former Wimbledon and US Open champion was forced to play in Challenger events to win time on court and regain his

old form. This time, Agassi has been installed by local bookmakers as equal favourite with Mark Philippoussis.

The loss of seeds has worked in his favour with Agassi the sole seed left in his quarter of the draw after the early exits of Spaniards Carlos Moya and Albert Costa and Frenchman Cedric Pioline.

The withdrawal of top seed Marcelo Rios through injury and the absence of Agassi's old rival Pete Sampras through fatigue means Agassi's only real hurdle before the final is likely to be either a match against

Yevgeny Kafelnikov or Todd Martin.

"I certainly don't mind that Pete's not here," Agassi said. "I'm not a bright guy but I'm not stupid."

Petr Korda, unseeded after falling to 20th in the world rankings and the man who failed a drugs test at Wimbledon last July, is still proving unpopular with the crowds.

Korda, let off a one-year ban and penalised only the prize and ranking points he earned, was on the receiving end of comments from the crowd during his straight-sets victory

over the Spaniard Julian Alonso, who, unlike compatriot Galo Blanco in the first round, did at least shake hands afterwards.

"Some of the fans were using improper (sic) words - something insulting," Korda said. He refused to say exactly what was said, but there was at least one audible shout of "cheat" during the match. "I don't want to talk about it. It didn't bother me."

The fifteenth seed, Todd Martin, came perilously close to tumbling out at the first hurdle yesterday, scraping through against the 61st ranked Brazil-

ian Fernando Meligeni, 3-6, 4-6, 6-3, 6-4, 6-1. The American early on showed little of the devastating form which won him the Sydney International last week-end and lifted him to No 13 in the world.

He knocked volleys into the net and sent groundstrokes sailing out of court, while the Brazilian hit the lines with pinpoint accuracy, forcing Martin to stay on the baseline throughout the first two sets.

"It was tougher than I was hoping for, but not necessarily tougher than I was expecting," Martin said.

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THE INDEPENDENT
Friday 22 January 1999

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Dennis Rodman has changed his mind and decided not to retire after all. The NBA's most colourful player posted a message on his Internet site yesterday announcing his decision and his agent, Dwight Marley, confirmed that the player wants to return to professional basketball.

"I've been reviewing my options," Rodman wrote, "and these options still include playing in the NBA this season with a contender Chicago, New York Knicks, Miami, who had sent Rodman, said he had spoken with the player yesterday. "It's true," Marley said of Rodman's change of heart.

If the Bulls were to resuscitate a sign-and-trade deal for Rodman, they had to do so by



England to carry on in sober fashion

THIS IS some one-day series. It began with a controversy which refuses to go away about a bowler having a crooked arm. Now there is a scandal which will probably have similar mileage about a batsman being legless.

The first involves the Sri Lankan bowler, Muttiah Muralitharan, who continues to be the subject of blatant innuendo about his bowling action. It is still being widely suggested that he may be called for throwing by one or other of the umpires in his side's match against England in Adelaide tomorrow.

But at least some of the heat has been taken out of the Murali debate by the dropping from the Australian team of the batsman, Ricky Ponting, after he was struck in the eye while on an early-morning drinking session. Ponting, who is sporting a bloody shiner after the incident in a Sydney bar, made every Australian front page after the incident became public and is waiting to hear if he is to receive further punishment from the Australian Cricket Board.

He has admitted that he has a tendency to drink too much occasionally and fierce arguments are now being mounted about whether players should be banned from imbibing alcohol before and after games. This might be a tad embarrassing since the tournament sponsors, Carlton & United, are brewers. It is not known if Ponting had been drinking his wares on the night in question.

Spotlessly clean England, and everywhere you go this squad's politeness and good manners are mentioned, meanwhile, keep on winning matches. If they defeat Sri Lanka tomorrow they will have won five from six. The only way they could then fail to qualify for the finals is if they lose the "rest" white Australia and Sri Lanka also continue to win five matches

CRICKET
BY STEPHEN BRECKLEY
in Adelaide

(possible but not likely) and lose out on net run-rate.

Their captain, Alec Stewart, is the archetypal pro and was taking nothing for granted while counting no chickens. "I would say we have broken the back of it, playing our first five games in 10 days. We have now got down to two or three days between each game."

England have arrived at a strategy which gives them their best chance of winning matches in Australia. It seems to have been achieved partly by design, partly by accident - Graeme Hick asked to bat at No 3 while the selectors were just about to request him to do it - and mainly embraces the revolutionary concept in one-day games of playing orthodox cricket.

True, the openers will try to take advantage of the fielding restrictions which apply in the first 15 overs, but they are conscious, too, of the importance of not losing wickets then, a trait which has had a debilitating effect on Sri Lanka. England are attempting to stack up singles and twos in the middle part of the innings and then have enough wickets left for a big bash at the end.

It will not work perfectly every time but it is a sensible policy. They may decide that something different should apply on the spring pitches of England in the World Cup but the present balance between bat and ball seems somehow more appropriate.

Sri Lanka's win over Australia in Hobart has opened up the group slightly but England have still gone from the least fancied side to favourites. The greatest enemy, neither Stewart nor Darren Gough

would lightly miss an England game but they have been in Australia since October and whatever the sparkling images of fitness and enthusiasm they both convey they must be feeling tired. Resting Gough at least for a match or two before the finals must be an option.

First, they have to qualify. In addition to which the tour manager, David Graveney, offered wise words of caution. "These are all one-day internationals after all and there is a case for always picking what you think is the best side for every match. And there is the importance of not letting a winning sequence slip."

England have fallen into the habit of not naming their side until shortly before the match in this tournament, making much of the point that they are picking from 16. But the likelihood for the first match here is that Neil Fairbrother will return if his tight hamstring has mended and that Dean Headley could return.

John Crawley, who batted neatly to help win the last match against Sri Lanka, and Vince Wells, who, sadly, barely managed to get into the game, will probably stand down. Sri Lanka will have received an immense, not to say much-needed boost to their confidence after their three-wicket victory over Australia.

They should be more like their old selves despite the pressure on Murali and the probable continued absence of Aravinda de Silva. These are contentious times and it is at least welcome that the triangular tournament involves three teams again.

England's scheduled four-day match against Mashonaland was abandoned without play yesterday because of the water-logged state of the Old Hararians ground. Two replacement one-day matches have been planned.



Sanath Jayasuriya celebrates dismissing Australia's Mark Waugh during Sri Lanka's first triangular win in Hobart yesterday

Reuters

Australia beaten as Sri Lanka end run

SRI LANKA, the World Cup champions, yesterday broke a run of eight successive one-day defeats when they beat Australia by three wickets in Hobart for their first win of the Carlton & United Series.

Marvan Atapathu struck 82 and Arjuna Ranatunga, the captain, shrugged off injury to hit an unbeaten 45 as Sri Lanka reached their target of 211 with three deliveries of their 50 overs to spare. A late slump in which five wickets tumbled for 35 threatened Sri Lanka's victory ambitions, but they were not to be denied after Australia made 210 for 9 in their 50 overs.

Australia 210-9
Sri Lanka 211-7
Sri Lanka win by three wickets

Ranatunga, limping noticeably after straining a calf muscle while fielding on a soft Bellerive Oval, needed a runner but his 61-ball innings ensured his side's success after they slipped from 163 for 3 to 198 for 7. The leg-spinner Shane Warne, who finished with 3 for 45 off his 10 overs, and the pace bowler Glenn McGrath, with 1 for 33 off his 10, did the damage.

Sri Lanka had been put on course for victory by a 116-run second-wicket partnership off

71 balls between Atapathu and the opener Ramesh Kaluwitharana, who struck 54. Atapathu's 82 came off 121 balls in 168 minutes and included six fours.

England lead the tri-nation series on eight points, with Australia on four and Sri Lanka, who have a match in hand, on two. The top two qualify for the best-of-three finals.

Australia went into the match without Ricky Ponting, who was dropped after being involved in a fight outside a Sydney nightclub. Adding to their problems were injuries to Steve Waugh and Michael Bevan.

Waugh was unable to field

after suffering a recurrence of the hamstring injury that kept him out of the early matches of the series. He felt a sharp twinge as he was running between wickets during his innings of 20.

Team officials said it was in the same area of his left leg as his old injury and he was almost certain to miss Australia's next two matches of the series, against Sri Lanka on Sunday and England on Tuesday.

Bevan suffered a minor strain to his right groin, saying he felt it while batting and then aggravated it in the field. He was replaced by the Tasmanian bowler, Damien Wright.

Ranatunga was thrilled with the win. "I thought we batted really well, then panicked a little in the middle. I was a bit worried towards the end," he said.

Earlier Mark Waugh and Darren Lehmann posted half-centuries in Australia's modest total. Waugh top-scored with 65 and Lehmann made 51 in the most significant partnership of the innings - 93 for the third wicket. Both survived chances as the Sri Lankans missed numerous catches, but once they were parted Australia's batting struggled.

Scoreboard, Table, Digest, page 27

Hindu nationalists lift tour threat

WASIM AKRAM, the Pakistan captain, yesterday expressed relief that right-wing Hindu nationalists had lifted a threat to disrupt his country's tour of India. "The players were really worried but I am sure that this news is going to make them very easy and comfortable. It is definitely going to take quite a lot of pressure off their heads," he said.

Wasim was speaking after India announced that the Hindu Shiv Sena party had withdrawn a threat to disrupt the tour by Pakistan. The threat had caused serious concerns on

BY BRIAN MCKENNA
in New Delhi

both sides of the border. "It's great for us to be in India," Shahrayar Khan, the team manager, told a press conference soon after Pakistan arrived in New Delhi amid tight security. "Never in the history of cricket has a team arrived in such a daunting atmosphere. I hope they get the welcome they deserve across India," Shahrayar said.

Pakistan travel to Gwalior today for the three-day tour opener against India A, starting tomorrow. The first Test starts in Madras on 28 January and the second will be played at New Delhi from 4 February.

India, meanwhile, have unveiled a new-look squad to face Pakistan in the first Test. The opening bat Navot Siddhu and the vice-captain Ajay Jadeja have been dropped from the team that lost the recent Test series in New Zealand as two new caps join the 14-man squad.

The all-rounder Laxmi Ratan Shukla and the opening batsman Sadagoppan Ramesh are the fresh faces contesting a place in Mohammad Az-

haruddin's team to kick off the first Test series against a Pakistan side in India for 12 years.

"We thought youngsters should get a chance," Ajit Wadekar, the selection committee chairman, said. "We found Jadeja wanting against swing bowling and youngsters have shown good performances in domestic cricket."

The fast bowler Ajit Agarkar, nursing an injury, has also been left out for the first Test.

INDIA SQUAD (First Test v Pakistan): M Azharuddin (capt), S R Tendulkar, S C Ganguly, R S Doshi, V V S Laxman, J Srinath, N R Mongia (wicket), M Singh, S B Joshi, S Ramesh, N V Kambekar, L R Shukla, Venkatesh Prasad, A Kumble.

Rodman calls off his retirement

DENNIS RODMAN has changed his mind and decided not to retire after all. The NBA's most colourful player posted a message on his Internet site yesterday announcing his decision and his agent, Dwight Manley, confirmed that the player wants to return to professional basketball.

"I've been reviewing my options," Rodman wrote, "and those options still include playing in the NBA this season with a contender. Chicago, New York and LA are all cities I'd like to play in. Playing overseas could be pretty cool, too."

Rodman had announced his retirement on Tuesday as rumours spread that he was about to be traded to the New York Knicks. Manley, who had said he would no longer represent Rodman, said he had spoken with the player yesterday. "It's true," Manley said of Rodman's change of heart.

If the Bulls were to resuscitate a sign-and-trade deal for Rodman, they had to do so by

BASKETBALL

yesterday's deadline. Chicago were expected to renounce their rights to Michael Jordan and complete sign-and-trade deals for Scottie Pippen (to Houston), Luc Longley (to Phoenix) and Steve Kerr (to San Antonio). Chicago may be ready to make a deal with the Knicks, trading Rodman for Buck Williams.

"I've had some long discussions with the people I love, the ones whose opinions matter most to me, and I've decided not to retire after all," Rodman announced on his website. "I know yesterday I said I was history and, with the NBA lock-out and everything going on, I really thought I should stop playing."

He added: "I still have to come back for at least one more game so that I can get back naked on the court."

The 37-year-old Rodman won titles with Chicago in 1996, 1997 and 1998, and with the Detroit Pistons in 1989 and 1990.

Williams makes amends for Wales

MARK WILLIAMS, beaten in the deciding frame when Wales were knocked out of the 1996 World Cup, made amends by keeping his country's Nations Cup challenge alive in Newcastle yesterday.

Williams, no stranger to tight finishes, having sunk a re-spotted black to edge out Stephen Hendry in this year's Benson & Hedges Masters final, held his nerve to put the seal on a 6-5 Welsh victory over Northern Ireland.

"What happened in Bangkok was on my mind, and I was shaking all over," said Williams, referring to his defeat to Thailand's James Wattana in an equally tense climax to the World Cup quarter-final.

Northern Ireland led 2-0 but trailed 3-2 when they put together a three-frame spurt which threatened to scupper any hopes of Wales appearing in Sunday's final.

Jason Prince had a 40 break in overcoming Williams before veteran Dennis Taylor brought

SNOOKER

his vast experience to bear. The 1985 world champion, who celebrated his 50th birthday on Tuesday, ground out a 39-minute singles triumph over Matthew Stevens before a 52 break helped him and partner Terry Murphy win a vital doubles contest.

That pushed Northern Ireland into a 5-3 lead and onto the verge of chalking up their second success of the week, having beaten England 6-5 on Monday. But Williams then sneaked past Murphy with a last red to blue clearance which launched the Welsh revival.

It continued when Stevens shaded Prince on the blue in frame 10 and was completed when Williams retained sufficient composure to clear yellow to blue in the deciding, after potting a crucial green from distance. The Welsh quartet must now beat England tomorrow to guarantee an appearance in the final.



TOMORROW

'Let's imagine that when Eric Cantona called it a day after winning a second Double with Manchester United, he took Ryan Giggs, David Beckham, Roy Keane, Paul Scholes and Peter Schmeichel with him. Oh, and Alex Ferguson.' RICHARD WILLIAMS on the break-up of the Chicago Bulls

THE INDEPENDENT

DON'T BE BRAVE
THE CHICKEN

DON'T TRY IT
WITH BASIL

DON'T SUCCUMB
TO THE TART

DON'T GO OUT FOR DINNER
UNTIL YOU'VE SEEN
THE INDEPENDENT

DINE OUT WITH A FRIEND AND PAY
JUST 45P FOR THEIR MEAL
SEE SATURDAY'S INDEPENDENT FOR DETAILS
DON'T MISS IT

Absent Saib to feel Graham's force

MOUSSA SAIB could be on his way out of White Hart Lane after defying George Graham and flying to join the Algerian national squad for their friendly against Tunisia on Sunday.

George Graham will contact the Football Association for guidance on dealing with the midfielder's "disappearing" act. The Tottenham manager said: "He has shown a lack of respect to the club and the fans and, without question, he'll be seriously disciplined."

Saib, the Algerian captain, who was signed by Graham's predecessor Christian Gross for

BY BILL PIERCE

£3m from Valencia less than a year ago, has only recently returned to training after a back operation in September and after just two games in the reserves to step up his rehabilitation programme he was refused permission to link up with the Algerian squad.

But after discovering that Saib had disregarded that order, Graham said: "I'm extremely disappointed with the boy and also the Algerian FA, who have not given us any feedback on our message to

them that he is not medically right to play at that level yet."

"What our fans will want to know is why isn't Saib available for Tottenham and yet suddenly pops up to play in Algeria. He has played only a game and a half in the reserves after a big operation on his back in September."

"He has been very well looked after here and that's what makes what he has done so disappointing. I'm contacting the FA for guidance about how we deal with this kind of situation. We told Saib he could not have permission to go to

Algeria but then he's just decided to disappear."

Saib, who made only made sporadic appearances in the first-team last season, will now face a hefty fine but could also be placed on the transfer list.

Graham has a formidable track record of dealing with players who do not toe the line and there is no doubt he feels this is a major betrayal by Saib. Graham said: "It's the kind of problem you sometimes get when you sign foreign players but I'm certainly not going to just accept it."

This new problem with a

foreign player has not stopped Spurs eyeing up the French defender, Alain Goma. "I've been interested in Goma for some time but there are difficulties in trying to get him here," Graham said.

Paris St-Germain are believed to be holding out for a £2m-plus fee for a player who has already indicated that he will be leaving them at the end of the season.

John Gregory yesterday shrugged off Stan Collymore's complaints about not getting in the Aston Villa team. Collymore, 28 today, has made it

clear he is unhappy at not being a regular in the starting line-up. He has been left on the bench for six of his side's last eight games but Gregory, the Villa manager, said: "I haven't got time to worry about it - there's too much work to do."

Aston Villa are considering what to do next in their dispute over the valuation of highly-rated defender, Gareth Barry.

Villa were handed a suspended fine of £16,000 and had £200,000 of their television revenue diverted to Brighton and Hove Albion, following their refusal to pay the Third

Division club the latest installment of the compensation settlement for the 17-year-old.

The club were withholding the payment until they are told just how the independent tribunal came to set a compensation figure that could top £1m.

Villa's secretary-director Steve Stride said: "We have to decide whether to continue the fight or not. What we find baffling is that we wrote to the tribunal chairman back in October asking for an explanation as to how they arrived at such a high figure - and we are still awaiting a reply."

England set for Hungary warm-up

BY NICK HARRIS

ENGLAND WILL play Hungary on 28 April in Budapest as part of their preparations for the crucial Euro 2000 qualifier against Bulgaria less than two months later. It was announced yesterday that Glenn Hoddle's side will play Sweden at Wembley at the start of June, followed by the Bulgarians, away, a few days later. Hoddle has organised the April friendly as he believes the Hungarian side mirror the style of the Bulgarians.

The news came on the same day that the national side and much of British football mortgaged its short-term image by signing a sponsorship agreement with a building society. The Nationwide announced a wide-ranging deal for the game worth an estimated total of £25m over four years. The deal means the company will succeed Green Flag as the England national side's main sponsor for the next four years, will continue as sponsor of the Football League for another two years, and become the new sponsor of the Football Conference. The company will also become an associate sponsor of the Scotland team for four seasons and continue its sponsorship of the Irish League Gold Cup for two years.

The new sponsor's chief executive, Brian Davis, said: "We need to consistently re-emphasise our brand to as many people as possible."

Hoddle said: "This is a deal which is great for all of football, not just the England team."

While yesterday's deal shows how attractive football has become to commercial investors in recent years, it also highlights the gaping divide between the different levels of the national sport.

Whereas yesterday's endorsement will see one company paying £25m to effectively sponsor all major football events in the country (including the national side) for four years, the Premier League's comparative deal with Carling (for just one division) is worth £36m alone.

Speaking after yesterday's deal was announced, Hoddle took the opportunity to say he believed the public are firmly behind him and his team, despite less than scintillating performances in the most recent Euro 2000 qualifiers. He added that the fact that next month's friendly at Wembley against France has sold out almost three weeks before it is due to be played proves that the public are behind him.

"I pushed for the game and the French came back straight away saying they wanted to play us at all levels, which shows the public still have and that Wembley is the place where people want to come and play," Hoddle said. "It couldn't be a better friendly fixture as they don't come any bigger than the world champions and the public have already responded with a full-house."

"I'm not sure that a dip in public support has been there anyway. There was a good crowd for the Czech Republic game [a friendly England won 2-0 in November] at late notice and a full-house here at Wembley is an excellent turn-out. It always is, they always support the team very well."

"The main concern for us is the next two qualifying games at Wembley. If we can chalk up two wins from those games then that will put a completely different complexion on the group."

"The Czech Republic game was good for us. If we hadn't played that game, it would have been a longer gap. If we can get the same result and performance against France, it will bode well for us."

"There are certain players who will gain from that experience, particularly if it's a younger player."

FA Cup countdown: Stockport's manager faces his old club tomorrow and risks ruining his son's day

Megson tries to play down the romance

WHEN GARY Megson's nine-year-old son watched the FA Cup fourth-round draw he turned to his father and said "oh, you're out", which was not an extreme bout of pessimism or a ritual to bring good luck. He was stating his belief.

Simon Megson, as befitting the son and the grandson of former Sheffield Wednesday players, is blue and white through and through and the minor inconvenience that his father is manager of Stockport County, who play at Hillsborough tomorrow, is not going to test that affection.

"He'll not have divided loyalties at all," Megson said. "he'll be supporting Wednesday. But I won't have divided loyalties either, which is more pertinent."

It is fair to say, though, that Megson was rooting for Wednesday if their Cup route was barred by anyone else. He lives in Sheffield, he played 250 league games for the club in two spells under Jack Charlton and Howard Wilkinson and his father, Don, was a distinguished left-back at Hillsborough in the 50s and 60s and played in the 1966 FA Cup final.

Even now Megson (middle) spends a lot of time at the club relieving himself of what he describes as "a small fortune" buying merchandise from Wednesday's souvenir shop. Needless to say, they are for Simon.

The links between Megson and Wednesday are strong, and certainly too robust to be broken by his attempt to move the agenda on. "I've been trying to play down anything to do with me but it's proving impossible. I won't kick a ball, make a tackle or get a goal and people should not forget that. It's the players who are important."

"There is romance for an ex-player meeting his old club but for a manager it's not there. To be honest I'd rather be playing a lower-level club on our pitch because we want to progress and make as much money as

BY GLENN MOORE

possible for Stockport. Drawing a Premiership club away is not designed to do that."

As a whole-bearded midfielder Megson reached the semi-finals three times (twice with Wednesday, once with Everton) but a place beneath the twin towers was denied him. That has made him appreciate the Cup more.

"It was galling to come so close and lose the lot and what is worse is my assistant is Mike Phelan, who won it with Manchester United, and he's not shy in reminding me. We tell the players that even if you play a long time you'll be lucky to get 20 goals at the FA Cup, so you have to give everything on the day."

Megson was one of those

"To be honest I'd rather be playing a lower club on our pitch to make as much money as possible"

players who rarely could be faulted on that count and his enthusiasm for work has followed him into management from Norwich to Blackpool and eventually cash-strapped Stockport. Many people would have been reluctant to succeed Dave Jones after his phenomenal season of 1996-97 when Stockport were promoted from the Second Division and reached the League Cup semi-finals, but he took it on.

It was a hard act to follow and the word had deteriorated to impossible when County did not win any of their first seven League games. "It wasn't easy," he agreed, "but the good thing was it was all new, nobody could say we did this or that last time in the First Division. Dave Jones did a marvellous job but nobody really expected Stockport to survive."

"The supporters weren't anti me and if they had been we'd

have struggled. The people here don't come in vast numbers but they're not thick, they know that 10 years ago this place was applying for relegation and it doesn't get put right overnight."

"We've survived because of our home form and the fans have to take credit because they make it an uncomfortable place to visit."

To say they survived is to underplay Megson's achievement, because Stockport revived to an extent they finished eighth, the highest rung they have ever reached on the league ladder. This time they are not comfortable but they are five points above the relegation places.

"It's more difficult because of the expectancy. Now it's seen as we're not too clever whereas if we'd been in this position last year we'd have been four or five places above where people thought we'd be."

"I'm convinced it's always more difficult to survive the second year than the first because you haven't got the newness and the enthusiasm. Bradford stayed up the first year, struggled the second and now they're flying."

Megson hopes tomorrow's tie will make Stockport airborne, although he is aware Wednesday have taken wing themselves and beat West Ham 4-0 at Upton Park last week. "If we give everything we've got and still don't win, then fair enough. There's no reason the opposition should work harder than you, be more organised or that their set pieces should be better than yours."

"It's just if the tie turns on players who can beat four players, turn on a tanner, and then chip the ball into the top corner they might have more people who can do that. But it doesn't always work out that way and they shouldn't want it more than my players."

The Megsons will all want to win this match badly. You wonder about the atmosphere in the family home on Saturday evening...



Gary Megson had a near-impossible job when he took over as the Stockport manager

Allsport

Beck back to advise Barrow Branca questions Boro decision to retire him

BARROW IN a mess on and off the field, have turned to the controversial talents of John Beck in their quest to keep the place in the Football Conference they won last May.

Last season's UniBond League champions, already without a chairman, discarded their manager as well last Saturday evening when they sacked Owen Brown - despite that afternoon's 3-1 home win over Welling which lifted them four points and places clear of the relegation zone.

Beck, the former Cambridge United, Preston and Lincoln City manager, made his name as an advocate of the long-ball game and a strict disciplinarian. Sacked by Lincoln in March last year, he is now working full-time as a players' agent.

Beck's successor at Lincoln, Shane Westley, took the lumps to promotion from the Nationwide League Third Division last season but was himself sacked in November when the Sincil Bank chairman, John Reames, decided he would take charge of the team himself. Now Westley and Beck are

NON-LEAGUE NOTEBOOK

BY RUPERT METCALF

together again, with the former appointed manager of Barrow and the latter working as a consultant.

"Shane is the manager and I'm there in an advisory capacity as a consultant until the end of the season," Beck said. "Shane lives in Lincoln and he will commute until the end of the season and then we'll review the situation and consider relocating. Our aim is to survive in the Conference and I think our chances are 50-50 at the moment. They did tremendously well to get promoted last season and the worst thing that could happen is to come straight back down again."

Barrow have been in turmoil since early last month when their chairman and major backer, Stephen Vaughan, resigned following the start of an on-going fraud squad investigation into a share issue made by the club in October. The police probe is not the

only financial crisis facing the Cumbrian club: on Monday they face a winding-up order in court in Barrow over an alleged £41,000 debt to a construction company for ground improvements carried out at Holker Street last summer.

To add to their woes, a club director, Pat Brewer, who is also Barrow's secretary, was suspended last weekend pending an investigation into alleged irregularities in players' contracts. She has subsequently resigned from the board. Another director, Rick Lucas, a night-club manager, has also quit the board after declaring himself "deeply unhappy with the way the club is being run".

Brown, who was also a director, was sacked as manager, according to the acting chairman Phil Cowling, because "he was asked to reduce the wage bill considerably and he made no attempt to do that. The disciplinary record also had to improve because of a suspended £5,000 Football Association fine which is hanging over the club from last season. In fact, it has got worse."

An angry Brown, a former Tranmere Rovers and Carlisle United striker, told local newspaper reporters: "I feel I have been shafted big-time. I'm gutted. I feel I've managed the side this season with my hands tied behind my back."

Claiming that he is owed wages and bonuses, and that he has two-and-a-half years of a three-year contract to be settled, Brown added: "I'm going to sue them for what I am owed." However, Cowling has denied the existence of a three-year contract.

In the shadow of all this chaos, Westley and Beck must try to prepare the team for tomorrow's Conference fixture at Yeovil - if they get there. This week Cowling was pleading for sponsors to assist with the expenses involved in the long trip to Somerset. "We need people to get behind us at the moment," the acting chairman declared. He can say that again.

The FA's Sanctions and Regulations committee has unanimously rejected a proposal by the Conference to form a second division.

MIDDLESBROUGH WERE yesterday standing firm about the future of the Italian striker Marco Branca - even though the player has denied his career is over.

The club announced earlier this week that it had reluctantly terminated the 34-year-old's contract because of the long-standing knee injury which has limited his involvement to just one appearance as a substitute in the last nine months. But the move apparently came as a shock to the former Internazionale forward, who said: "Retirement? I don't know anything about this. Nobody has told me anything."

However, a Boro spokesman, Dave Allan, reiterated that Branca had been given six months' notice of his contract in October after a consultant surgeon advised that the knee would not stand up to the rigours of professional football.

Meanwhile, the futility of the 'cash-for-votes' scandal at the Football Association was clear-

ly shown yesterday after Scotland's David Wili was unanimously given a two-year extension as the Home Nations' FIFA vice-president.

Keith Wiseman, the ousted chairman of the FA, is alleged to have agreed a £3.2m loan to the FA of Wales in an effort to obtain support for his bid to replace Wili on the executive of football's world governing body. Wiseman had apparently felt that the Scotsman was not doing enough to promote England's bid to host the 2006 World Cup.

Steve Wignall has resigned as the manager of Colchester United after four years in charge. He had guided the team to two Wembley appearances and promotion from the Third Division last season, but the Layer Road outfit are now struggling in the Second. Steve Whitton and Mick Cook take caretaker charge.

Paul Alcock is to return to Premiership refereeing. The Redhill official, out of action with a back injury after being pushed

over by Paolo di Canio in September, will take charge of Nottingham Forest v Manchester United on 6 February.

Huddersfield Town yesterday received a major boost when the millionaire businessman Barry Rubery bought a 70 per cent controlling interest in the club. Rubery, who recently floated his satellite decoding equipment company Pace Micro Technology, has been in talks with the Terriers for six months over the buyout, thought to be in the region of £2m.

Liverpool are giving the Norwegian Under-18 international goalkeeper Espen Johnsen a 10-day trial, with a view to making the move from Start permanent.

Ronnie Moore and Steve Parkin have agreed to be wired up to heart monitors when Mansfield tackle Rotherham in tonight's Sky Sports televised fixture at Field Mill. The experiment is designed to give viewers a unique insight into stress levels in management.

TODAY'S NUMBER

927,024

The number of people who visited Barcelona's club museum last year - an increase of more than 10 per cent on 1997, making it Spain's fourth most popular museum.

SPORT

EMERSON STILL THE TENNIS ACE P22 • MEGSON FAMILY DIVIDED P26

Challenge
Cup final
moves to
Scotland

RUGBY LEAGUE

BY DAVE HADFIELD

THE GAME'S biggest event will move outside England for the first time when the Challenge Cup final is staged at Murrayfield in the Millennium season.

The home of Scottish rugby union has been earmarked as the venue for rugby league's greatest gathering of the clans in the year 2000, when Wembley will be being rebuilt.

The League had also considered Twickenham and the new national stadium in Cardiff as possible temporary homes, but Edinburgh will be widely welcomed as the most imaginative answer to the question of where to play the match next year.

"We had to ensure that during the time Wembley is out of commission we located a high quality stadium that matched the final's status as a sporting event and we have no doubt that Murrayfield fulfils that requirement," said the Rugby League's chief executive, Neil Tunncliffe.

"During the many years that the game has been staged at Wembley, rugby league followers have become accustomed to celebrating the event by taking a weekend away in London. Our decision to move the game to the capital city of Scotland will afford our supporters a new opportunity to travel to one of the most beautiful cities in the world."

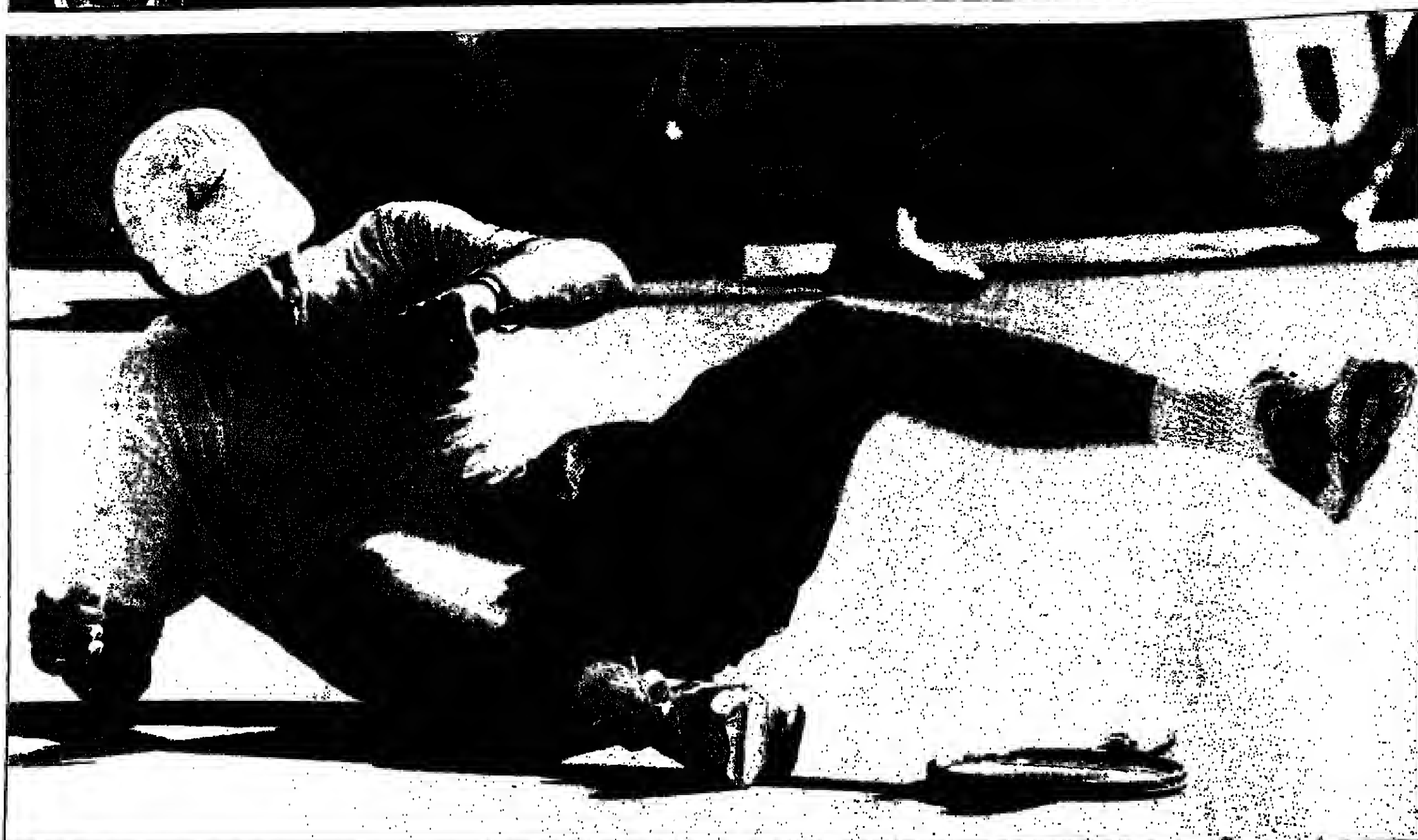
"We have consulted properly with our supporters as well as with our clubs to take their preferences into account when making this important choice."

The code will be making its debut at the stadium, although there have been recent international fixtures in Glasgow and an "on the road" fixture between Bradford Bulls and London Broncos at Hearts' Tynecastle ground last year.

There is also a growing amateur league scene in Scotland, which Tunncliffe said the decision to take the game's showpiece there was designed to foster.

The obvious drawback is that Murrayfield's capacity is only 67,500, enough to accommodate last season's relatively poorly supported final but only sufficient for three other attendances since the Second World War.

No decision has been made yet on the venue for 2001.



Britain's Greg Rusedski, the No 8 seed, is bowled over before being knocked out of the Australian Open by the American qualifier Paul Goldstein in Melbourne yesterday

Reuters

Rusedski rues lost chance

GREG RUSEDISKI was left wondering whether he should have followed Pete Sampras's example and taken a month off after he was knocked out of the Australian Open here yesterday. The British No 2 and eighth seed lost to a player ranked 179 places below him, the American qualifier Paul Goldstein, who was playing only his 10th match on the men's tour since turning professional last autumn, triumphed 6-4, 7-6, 6-7, 6-2 in a game lasting a minute under three hours. Even in the set Rusedski won he needed eight set points - it went to 11-9 in the tie-break - and against a player he said was among the best

TENNIS

BY DERRICK WHYTE
in Melbourne

returners of serve he had ever faced, the 25-year-old made a ghastly total of 76 unforced errors.

It was Rusedski's third defeat in four matches so far this year and he lamented, "Maybe I should have done what Pete did - just stay at home. I think it was a good play for him to do that. He was so burned out he needed a rest and this is the toughest Grand Slam to get ready for."

"At the moment it hurts because this was a good opportunity the way the draw was

panning out but maybe, in retrospect, it will prove good for me. I'm very disappointed but I couldn't raise my game to the level I had to and be returned unbelievably well. He challenged me every single point and I was not up to the task."

"I got only 51 per cent of my first serves in and against a player with his quality of return you have to be up at about 60 per cent at least."

The 22-year-old Goldstein graduated from Stanford University in California last summer - he was a fellow student of Tiger Woods - and at the US Open in September took a set off Sampras. Rusedski watched that match but still was not quite prepared for yesterday's display.

"I dug out some balls he was not expecting and created some angles," Goldstein said. "He was a little bit frustrated, but he was real gracious in defeat and I appreciate that. He showed a lot of class."

"Greg is one of the top two or three servers in the game, but I went in with a fair bit of confidence."

Rusedski's frustration was apparent to everyone when he missed his second set-point chance at 5-4 in the second set. He angrily smashed the ball down the other end of the court, almost hitting a line judge, and was given a warning.

After eventually levelling, the third set went with serve

into another tie-breaker. Goldstein won that 7-5 with a double-handed winner which flashed across Rusedski from the backhand wing and, with his tail up, he hit three more to break in the opening game of the fourth set.

At that Rusedski slung his racket away and it was hardly worth retrieving. He was broken again for 4-1 and virtually gave up. He did save two match points but on a third he hit a smash way over the baseline.

John McEnroe came through the qualifying to reach the Wimbledon semi-finals in 1977 - when he was aged 18 - but Goldstein may have to beat the 10th seed, Yevgeny Kafelnikov, and 15th seed Todd Martin in addition to Andrei Pavel to progress that far.

There was disappointment for the home crowd when the 17-year-old prodigy Lleyton Hewitt, conqueror of the 13th-seeded Frenchman, Cedric Pioline, in the first round, went out in four sets to Tommy Haas. Hewitt won the first set and had the German 4-2 in the second before Haas came back and wore down the Australian.

"It was a big disappointment because there was an opportunity there to make the third round of a Grand Slam - and there's no seeds in my section either," Hewitt said.

"I play my best tennis when I'm pumped. Today I lost some emotion at the end. I couldn't stay pumped for the whole match and I think it showed in the end."

In the women's singles, Anna Kournikova advanced in a match littered with unforced errors. To groans from the crowd, the 18-year-old Russian racked up an astonishing 31 double faults in overcoming Miho Saeki of Japan.

Time appears to be catching up on Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario. The No 4 seed ran up against the electrifying Austrian prospect Barbara Schett, whose power play unplugged the Spaniard's challenge.

Results, Digest, page 27; Goldstein's graduation, page 22

Ferguson no friend to Foe

FOOTBALL

BY ALAN NIXON

MANCHESTER UNITED'S manager, Alex Ferguson, has pulled out of the race for the Cameroon International Marc-Vivien Foe, leaving the way open for the midfielder to move to West Ham.

Ferguson revealed last night that he will not try to sign Foe from the French side. Lens, this season, even if it means losing out on him to the Hammers, who are hoping to do a quick deal.

Foe was at Old Trafford in August for a medical, but was not judged fully fit after a leg break that also ruled him out of the World Cup finals.

Ferguson has watched him since, but because Lens used Foe in the Champions' League - briefly, as a substitute in the last game - there is little point in United buying him immediately, as he is cup-tied.

The United manager denied last night that the club's pic board had blocked move for Foe, and said: "We felt that due to his injury we should look at him over the season. We were

prepared to wait, but if he goes elsewhere we wish him well.

"Now he has got an opportunity to move, I think he will do well, he's a very good player. We will stand back from that one."

Foe's British representative has been in discussions with West Ham's manager Harry Redknapp for the past four days and a fee should be agreed shortly. West Ham may have to pay up to £4m for Foe, and if he signs it could lead to the sale of Eyal Berkovic. The Israeli playmaker is wanted by Newcastle United.

The Blackburn Rovers manager Brian Kidd has made a new £2.5m offer for Crewe's promising youngster, Seth Johnson, but the struggling First Division club have turned down an instalment package and the option of a player swap

because they want a lump sum to build a new stand.

Blackburn's latest bid is £1.5m up front and the rest in appearances, but Crewe need £2m now to renovate their main stand at Gresty Road. Kidd hopes a compromise figure can be reached to tie up Johnson, who can play in midfield or at left-back.

Crystal Palace's Italian international Attilio Lombardo flew to Rome last night in the hope of completing a move to Lazio. The First Division club confirmed that their midfielder and former caretaker manager was talking with the Serie A side.

Lombardo, who has 18 Italian caps, played 24 times for the Eagles as they slipped out of the Premiership last season and has been a regular this term as they have tried to bounce back. The 33-year-old now looks likely to follow manager Terry Venables and striker Matt Jansen out of Selhurst Park.

Palace are reported to owe Lombardo bonus money and have agreed to release him immediately from his contract.

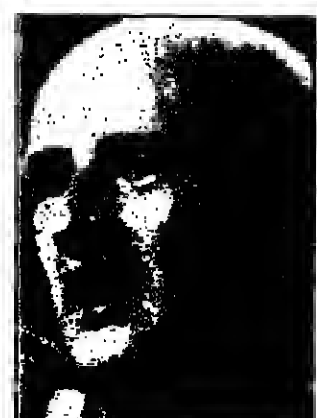
The Palace chairman and owner Mark Goldberg is facing mounting financial problems and is looking to cut his expenses further, after Venables stepped aside as team manager and £4.1m Jansen moved to Blackburn. Goldberg said: "Attilio has served Crystal Palace well. Obviously we are very sorry he is leaving but it is the same situation as with Matt Jansen. If we are not going to be in the Premiership next year then it is very difficult to keep him at the club."

A First Division side hoping to keep hold of one of their most talented players are Wolverhampton Wanderers, who yesterday said their Irish striker Robbie Keane was "priceless" and was not for sale.

Wolves' manager, Colin Lee, laughed off stories that the likes of Middlesbrough and Arsenal were preparing £5m bids for the 18-year-old, who is Molineux's leading scorer this season with 14 goals.

"Talk of £5m is a joke," said Lee. "That wouldn't even buy one of his arms and it's his legs which are supposed to be valuable. The stories are rubbish. Bryan Robson is supposed to have spoken to me about him yesterday but I haven't spoken to Robson for ages. In fact, no one has ever phoned me about Robbie Keane, or made an offer."

More news, page 26



Lombardo: Lazio bound

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More news, page 26

Mass ban for indisciplined Spartans

RUGBY UNION

BY CHRIS HEWETT

THE RUGBY badlands of the West Country will be just a little less perilous for the next fortnight or so, now that those mean sons-of-guns from Spartans have been rounded up by the local sheriff. The Gloucester club side have long been renowned for their how shall we say, vigorous approach to Saturday afternoon exercise but when they collectively decided to let it rip in a South West Two league match with

Cinderford last month, they rather overstepped the mark.

Phillip Ware, a poor, put-upon referee from Cornwall, had already dismissed two Spartan pugilists when he decided that the other 13 should join them in what is commonly termed the "early bath". The game was abandoned shortly

before the interval - well, there were no Spartans left on the field - and on Wednesday night, the Gloucestershire disciplinary committee imposed a mass, two-week suspension on the miscreants.

Bobby Fowke, a hard-nut flanker who played top-flight rugby with Gloucester before returning to his local outfit, placed the blame squarely at the feet of Mr Ware. "The referee's report blamed us entirely, which

does seem a little odd considering there were two sides on the field," protested Fowke, who was one of those originally dismissed for fighting.

"He gave 15 penalties against us in the opening 10 minutes, but would not allow us to ask why they had been awarded. People were getting more and more frustrated and, in the end, it boiled over."

Fowke was dealt with at a previous disciplinary hearing

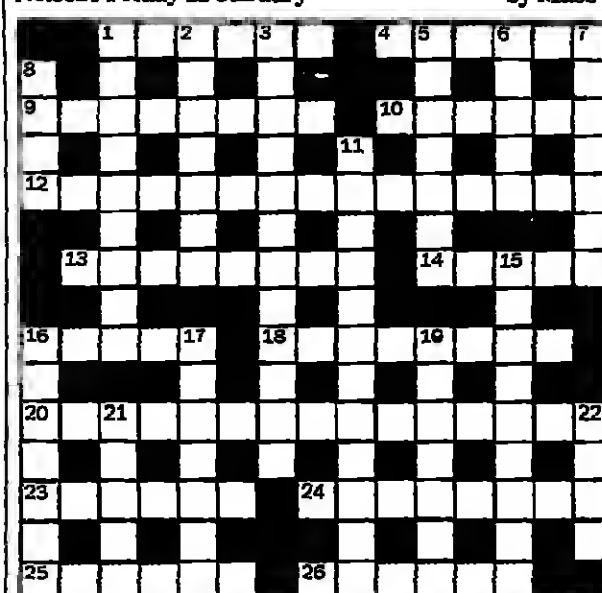
and although he was suspended for 35 days he is now available again - unlike his 14 club-mates.

"It's a problem," he agreed. "We're going to have to field reserve teams in our next two league games and, although we're in mid-table at the moment, a couple of defeats could put us in relegation trouble."

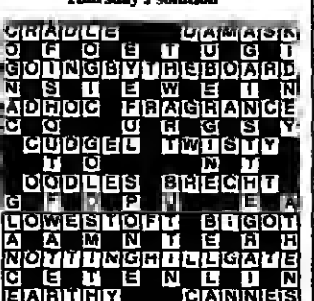
As they say in all the best Gloucestershire clubhouse life can be a bitch.

THE FRIDAY CROSSWORD

No. 3826 Friday 22 January by Mass



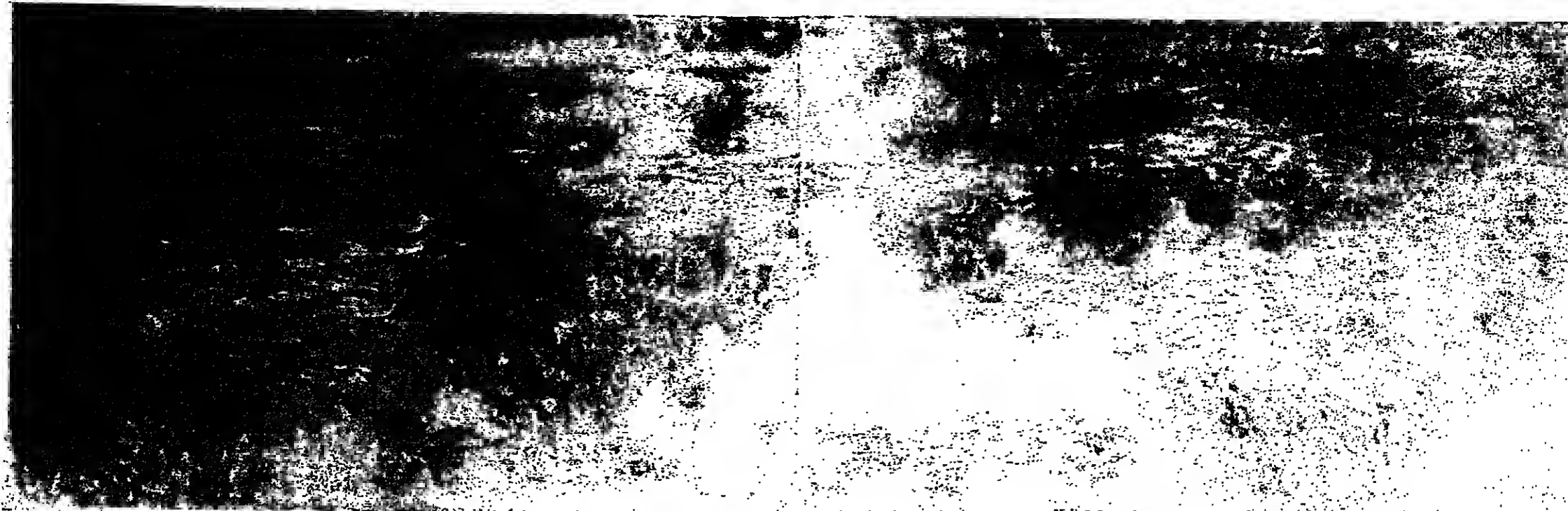
- ACROSS**
- Bones and skins without measure (6)
 - Constant interference (6)
 - Unfavourable rainy clouds from an Adriatic region (8)
 - Lawyer constrained by new iron decree (6)
 - Anything but ponderous (5, 2, 1, 7)
 - Join together for solace, moving off to church (8)
 - Half a month left to produce book (5)
 - State's introduced a new waterway (5)
 - Independent state, in name (8)
 - In which getting on may well be of primary concern? (8, 7)
- DOWN**
- Ample robe clothing royal adult (4-5)
 - Bridal material, baroque but not eastern (7)
 - Tax Return? (12)
 - Water creature quietly abandoned land (7)
 - Toreador's first hot-headed bull (5)
 - Study most of dwarf's dial? (7)
 - Face set, looking up (4)



- Thursday's solution**
- GOING
 - BOARD
 - ADRIATIC
 - IRON
 - DECREES
 - GOING
 - BOARD
 - ADRIATIC
 - IRON
 - DECREES
 - GOING
 - BOARD

FRIDAY REVIEW

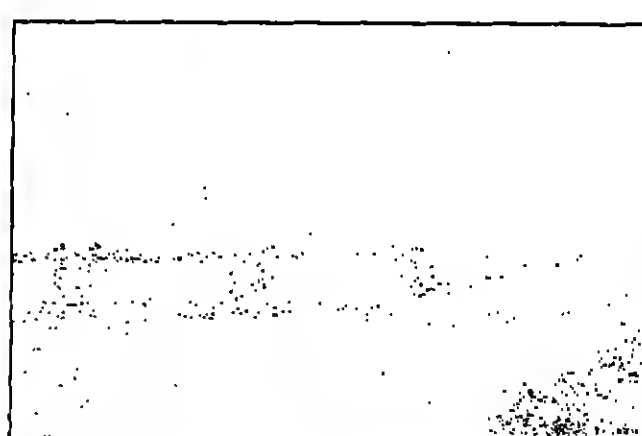
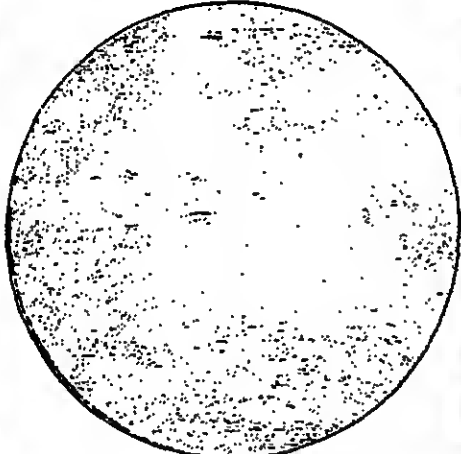
COMMENT • FEATURES • ARTS • LISTINGS • TELEVISION



Monet, Monet, Monet

If the British public sees one exhibition this year, it will be Monet at the Royal Academy. As the crowds gather, the RA stands accused of shameless commercialism. Is this any way to treat the great Impressionist?

BY TOM LUBBOCK



Landscape painting, William Hazlitt said, is "the obvious resource of misanthropy". For the viewer as well as the artist, it's a chance to get away from them all. But if you love the scapes of Claude Monet, his views of the Giverny garden, say, his wide stretches of pond water, then you'd better love your fellow humans too. You're not likely to escape them that way. Quite the contrary.

Nine years ago the Royal Academy staged "Monet in the 90s", and at the height of that exhibition the main thing it offered the visitor was a chance to study crowd-movements in close quarters. Now we have "Monet in the 20th Century". I don't think the artist's popularity has waned much in the interval, though perhaps the RA has got more adept in crowd-management. At any rate, it's curious to consider that in the pictures themselves - if you can catch a glimpse of them - you'll not see a living soul.

Now I must not gloat. I have seen this show. I saw it on Monday. And for quite a lot of the time - give or take the odd guard, fellow critic, curator and an easily available TV crew - I was more or less alone in it. Of course, I'm very glad of this. But it does mean that the show I saw, and the one you may see, are likely to be significantly different. The exhibition opens tomorrow. If a rapid response hadn't been requested, I'd have gone back again in public hours, to experience real viewing conditions - and not just to gauge the practical problems. Seeing and the self and solitude are pretty central matters to Monet's late art.

But the first wonder is how long he lasted. Monet, arch-Impressionist - it was his *Impression: Sunrise* of 1872 that first inspired the name - lived on through Symbolism, Fauvism, Cubism, Futurism, Dadaism even. He died in 1926, aged 86. A third of his painting life fell in our century. Whether, by the end, his work can still be called Impressionist, whether it should really be called visionary or indeed abstract, are not entirely stupid or anachronistic questions. Contemporary critics asked them, and anyone may well wonder. Incidentally, it's not as people used to think just a matter of Monet having bad eye trouble.

Fast forward the video: that's usually good advice for any blockbuster, and it is here. Don't waste your feet or eyes, your bargaining or head-dodging skills too much on the earlier rooms, where everyone always gets clogged. Proceed, fairly directly, past the first garden scenes, past the many views of Charing Cross Bridge and the several views of the Houses of Parliament. They've got their points, I know, and it's nice that Monet was a lover of our London fogs, but there's much intensive viewing ahead. Keep moving, until you hit ponds.

I mean, specifically, not the pretty, delicate, circular and rather 19th-century-looking water-lilies pictures, but those in the next room, the more graphic and lurid ones, that somewhat suggest Edvard Munch. It's true we've just skipped almost half the show,

but since almost the whole point of it is the last works, and since these lily pictures are first drafts for those infinite visions, they're a good start. They're in fact very clever (maybe not a word you'd associate with Monet). They perform an ingenious formal metamorphosis. A lot of it's in the cropping.

There's no bank in view. The pictures are all water; what's floating on it and what's reflected in it. And what's reflected is as boldly marked as what floats. Consequently they divide clearly into two flat, superimposed layers. It was 1907; no Western painting had done this before. The top layer is the water-lilies grouped in isolated flotillas on the pond's surface. The layer behind is the upside-down reflection of two shadowy treetops, with a brighter sky showing between and above (or below) them. OK.

Now consider those lilies: where have you seen that formation of shapes before in paintings? In cloud studies, most obviously, with groups of strato-cumulus floating in a sky. And the upside-down trees-against-sky reflection: what does that configuration of light and dark look like? Chiefly, pictures of widening river-mouths, or rising springs, or waterfalls dropping into a pool. So between the two layers, image and shape change places. The water surface becomes open sky. The reflected sky becomes flowing water (as it were, a stream within a pond). Very neat, if quite subliminal, punning; but it's the basis of the last works' deeper spatial uncertainties.

Then it's the Venice pictures, which Monet himself thought a bit chocolate-bboxy. Then his wife died, and he painted little for a couple of years. Then it's 1914, and suddenly he's painting on a much larger scale, and the brushwork gets magnified and emboldened with it. Here you find the first Monet painting where it's natural to ask what's that meant to be? Monet probably wouldn't have considered *Water-Lilies, Reflections of Weeping Willows* (1916-19) a finished work. His taste was neater than ours. But the point is, the space is starting to waver; the two layers - surface and reflection - merge in an overall milky-purple haze, mainly differentiated by rhythm and direction of brushstroke.

The most visionary images follow, ground-level views of the Rose Garden, and the Japanese Bridge with its overgrown canopy, where foliage burns in knotty, fireball coagulations of really thick paint, and the colours are frankly off the wall. A couple of these pictures may indeed register a disturbance in Monet's colour vision, due to cataract trouble. But he knew the colours of the world and he paints well enough for this still to be a doubtful explanation.

And now I'm hurrying to the *Grandes Décorations* in the last room, the giant lily-pond panoramas, two metres high, as much as six metres wide. Monet here develops this single motif into a space that's not abstract, but that resumes the whole of nature, with all nature's moods and elements in its repertoire. It can do boiling sunsets, lush meadow, dense mists, swelling ocean, pouring rain, the seabed. These amazing vistas disorder and dis-

solve between surface, depth, distance, atmosphere, flux, suspension, void. They put the viewer on the spot.

For if you imagine what viewing conditions the pictures demand, you see how odd they are. Size-wise, they look like public art, made to adorn a space with big walls, the sort of space you couldn't hope to have to yourself. But on the other hand, they're not for public viewing at all, not for sharing, or having an interesting discussion about in front of. The point of their size is the total immersion of the single viewer. There's this enormous panorama - for your eyes only. Think of mad King Ludwig having a full-dress performance of *Lohengrin* staged for him alone, an audience of one: that's about the size of the anomaly.

It might be simpler to say cinema. In the cinema, all audiences are audiences of ones. And when you enter the room, and see facing you the marvellous *Water-Lily Pond* from New York, you may not think it, but your body knows at once what you're looking at: a wide screen. And as with a big movie, the impact is both overpowering and empowering. The vision is all yours to lose yourself in. But unlike a cinema, these paintings have only one true viewpoint - centre - in front of where the real depths sink in, with the encompassing vista balanced either side of you, and the pictures have to be hung at eye-level. You probably want to walk to and fro, approaching the canvas, backing off. But you don't want company, you want communion. There's no business so self-centred as self-loss.

Monet, of course, had bigger ideas about encompassing the viewer, and they're partly realised at the Orangerie in Paris. Personally, I've never thought this attempt at surround-vision really worked. Therefore I'm against the RA's imitating it, by putting its five panoramas all round the walls of a single, relatively small room. They need, ideally, one-to-one viewing. They need realistically as much space as possible, say a room each. (And I'm sorry to say the RA has actually taken three rooms out of circulation, for sponsors' parties.)

The experience, if you can get it, is the meaning. They're not about anything. I've made it sound rather spiritual, and that's all right if you see that with this art, the analogy can go either way - with the spiritual perhaps only a metaphor for the sensory. Or no distinction need be made. Monet once said he wanted a boy for his coffin, to bob on the sea-surface eternally. But perhaps a better image for how the viewer is involved is the Buddhist idea of breaking the bottle, blending the water it contains with the ocean it's floating in.

Though I suppose, by the time you've squeezed your way through to the last room of "Monet in the 20th Century", you'll already know that feeling pretty well.

"Monet in the 20th Century", Royal Academy, Piccadilly, London W1; every day, to 18 April; admission £9, concessions £6, 0171-300 8000

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True public service means giving time as well as money

THE DECLINE in charitable giving, both of time and money, is not just a technical phenomenon, another pernicious side effect of the National Lottery – although it is that too. It goes to the soft centre of the Prime Minister's Third Way. Philanthropic donations and voluntary work are central to any meaningful notion of "community", as Tony Blair acknowledged yesterday. In a thoughtful speech to the National Council of Voluntary Organisations, he criticised the cynical view that the only thing that motivates people is the desire to acquire power, wealth and material possessions for themselves. "If everyone shared that first-past-the-post, me, my, mine philosophy, then there really would be no such thing as society." This is but the latest echo of one of Margaret Thatcher's most famous formulations. And yet the point she was trying to make in that famous *Woman's Own* interview was much closer to Mr Blair's thinking than either of them might admit, because the decline in the idea of community service goes rather deeper than the "me and mine" philosophy of the yuppie Eighties. It has also been undermined by the idea that many welfare functions are the responsibility of the state. Mrs Thatcher was railing against the idea that if people failed to bring up children properly or turned to crime, it was "all the fault of society". She was appealing, like Mr Blair, for a restoration of a sense of individual duty towards others.

Where this present Prime Minister has a potential advantage over his predecessor is that her philosophy, with its simplistic reliance on the notion that people pursue only their economic self-interest, offered no explanation as to why they should give money away or work for free – "no such thing as altruism", as she might have said.

Mr Blair, on the other hand, has always espoused a political vision which recognises that people fulfil themselves in their relations with others, and that individual success is unsatisfying unless it is accompanied by a sense of belonging to a successful community.

However, the trend away from charitable giving and voluntary work is not going to be reversed unless the Government changes the incentives that influence human behaviour, and tries to change our national culture. That means American-style tax breaks for charitable giving – to accompany the overhaul of the legal definition of charitable objects that is currently under way. And it means changes in the tax system, beyond the current give-as-you-earn and bequest schemes, to encourage people to devote more time to voluntary work and public service. Employers should have more incentives to employ more people, more part-time and flexible workers, rather than simply to work existing staff for longer hours.

These incentives should both encourage and reinforce



cultural changes, in which both the Government and the NCVO should take leading roles. We need to get away from a situation in which it is easier to raise money for guide dogs for the blind than it is to raise money to help blind people more generally. This reflects the fundraiser's dilemma, which is that it is always easier to raise money for specific causes that make a measurable, short-term difference. That again, of course, reflects too narrow a view of charity, as an obligation that is discharged simply by giving money. The Prime Minister was right yesterday to call for a broader notion of public service, which involves giving time as well as money. "A fully employed society," he said, "is one where everyone contributes all their talents through the things they do – paid or unpaid – in the service of others. A society in which, when people ask you, 'What do you do?', it's not just your job that you mention." It is a fine ideal, a fitting softening of the stridency of "no such thing as society". But it will require consistent action from the Government to turn it into reality.

Flying in the face of the free market

THERE ARE, sadly, many candidates for the title of "most fixed market in Britain". Agriculture springs to mind, as does the new car trade. But, in terms of its stubbornness and blatancy, air travel has always been a prime contender for the award. Fresh revelations about the behaviour of our leading airline may just have clinched it. The wonder is that the relevant competition authorities seem so unable – or unwilling – to do much about it.

The "back-door" fare increases now being planned show that the airlines are still unashamed about fixing artificially high fares. British Airways has always been an aggressive player. But this move is startling in its audacity, even for this company.

To take one small example, if you want to fly from

Heathrow to Jersey, say, you have no choice but to use BA, and from April you will have to pay an extra £7.70 for the trip, supposedly to cover extra tax. But the problems do not end there. Heathrow airport is the most sought after in the world. Every airline on the planet is desperate for "slots" to land here. But the Bermuda Agreements that have governed Anglo-American air travel since the Forties limit the airlines that can fly transatlantic from Heathrow to just two on each side: BA and Virgin from the UK, American and United from the US. Cities such as Las Vegas are crying out for direct links from London, and many airlines are keen to serve it, but the bilateral agreement does not allow new entrants. Any new slots that do become available are usually carved up. This stymies competition and innovation.

By most standards, we enjoy a relatively deregulated market. But the big players have too much power. Passengers get a raw deal. If the Government and the European Commission fail to act, we'll know who really rules the skies.

As Mr Ashdown quits, will his party disappear into oblivion?

THE BIGGEST tribute to Paddy Ashdown has been raised by his impending departure. They are questions which go to the heart of government. What happens to relations between his party and Labour? How will the promised referendum on electoral reform be affected? What future will there be for the Lib/Lab Cabinet committee?

Compare these questions with those at the time when Ashdown's most recent predecessors announced their resignations. Speculation after the departure of Jeremy Thorpe in the 1970s centred on his own personal future, a male model and a deceased dog. The party had become so irrelevant, the main area of contention in its subsequent leadership contest was over whether one of the candidates, John Pardoe, had been the beneficiary of a hair transplant.

In 1988, when David Steel walked away from the debris of the SDP/Lib Alliance, the main question being asked was whether the Liberals could survive at all. What is more, Steel manoeuvred in the 1980s, when the political climate was far more conducive to a third party with Labour and the Tories vacating the centre ground. Ashdown faced the possibility of being swallowed alive by New Labour's dash to the "radical centre".

Instead, 11 years after his leadership began, Ashdown marches off stage to the drumbeat of those flatteringly big questions being asked of himself and his party. Yet the questions suggest also that he is leaving behind much unfinished business. For however big they are in relation to the

future pattern of British politics, they remain unresolved. Even more tantalising, Ashdown's departure risks a resolution which he will find hard to stomach.

Without his guiding hand, the chances of a return to traditional tribal politics are increased. During the next six months, he will work hard to avoid such an outcome, but the momentum is moving away already from the Ashdown vision of greater co-operation between his party and New Labour. For the vision is dependent on electoral reform.

More immediately, Ashdown's interim term of constructive opposition needs the promise of a referendum in the near future to keep his wary colleagues on board. As I wrote on Monday, even Lord Jenkins puts the chances of a plebiscite within five years as under 50/50. It is far from clear that a poll would be winnable even then. Without electoral reform, co-operative politics has limited short-term value. For in reality, parliamentary arithmetic dictates the attitude of parties towards each other. When a governing party needs support in the Commons, tribal instincts evaporate surprisingly quickly. Even John Prescott would hold the hand of his opposite number in the Lib Dems if the survival of the Government was at stake. Similarly, John Major was forever pouring whisky down the throats of Lib Dem MPs as he sought support over the Maastricht legislation.

But Major's parliamentary nightmare was a rare one. Nearly always the first-past-the-post system will deliver one party a thumping majority.



STEVE RICHARDS
His vision is dependent on electoral reform, but the momentum towards such reform has stopped

Indeed, much time is wasted during election campaigns speculating on what might happen in a hung parliament, when there has been only one since the Second World War in February 1974. Yet such an unlikely scenario was Ashdown's only hope of a coalition in 1997, and would be if he had clung on until the next election.

In my view, electoral reform is less likely now than it has been for many years. Last November, the Jenkins Report had the potential to make great historical waves. It did not. Instead, the elegant words were the equivalent of pebbles causing a few ripples, before being brushed aside by a much bigger gust from a different direction. In Labour's ranks, the first-past-the-posters are smiling, looking forward to further vindication when PR in the Euro elections this summer

loses them more seats than would have been the case otherwise. Even senior Labour supporters of electoral reform are not especially keen on Jenkins' proposals. "I would support the Alternative vote, but not this messy compromise", is a common reaction. The momentum towards electoral reform has gone into reverse.

This, combined with the related factor of Blair's continuing equivocation on the issue, will encourage the tribal instincts of the Lib Dems. Such instincts are far greater than those in the souls of many Labour traditionalists, as anyone who attends their party conferences will testify.

I remember reporting their 1992 conference in Harrogate, following the Tories' fourth election win in a row. Before the conference, Ashdown had raised, very tentatively, the prospect of co-operating with other parties in the light of the Conservatives' apparent invincibility. Activist after activist stood up to declare their horror at such a prospect, insisting that the party's national objective should be to form the next government. It was the same sort of horror expressed by some of them when the joint Cabinet committee was formed.

Too many Liberal Democrats manage to combine self-righteousness and naivete in equal measure. It is a miracle Ashdown has taken them as far as he has.

It is quite possible that they will pick a leader now who will take them to the promised land of indignant impotence. Such a strategy would be a big mistake. A senior cabinet minister, one of those rare figures in Blair's

Government who is supportive of closer co-operation, told me that "the gloves would be off and the Liberals annihilated" if a new leader reverted to the old tribalism.

At the moment, with New Labour still dominant in the polls, it is the Lib Dems who risk being marginalised. New Labour alone would become Blair's vehicle for the realignment of British politics. But before most of the cabinet rubs its hands in glee at such a prospect, ministers should contemplate their rather emptier lives in the 1980s. It is not just the Liberal Democrats who have much to lose by ditching the Blair/Ashdown strategy. During the long years of opposition, the third party was effectively part of an anti-Labour coalition, rather than an anti-Tory one. Michael Foot and Neil Kinnock were attacked on two fronts, by the Conservative and the Alliance. They never stood a chance.

There will come a time when this Government is unpopular, and when the Conservatives come to their senses. Labour could face such an assault again, if the centre-left finds itself occupied once more by two parties fighting each other.

There are pointers to suggest that the Blair/Ashdown strategy is still on course. But I suspect the moment has passed. Already, too many ministers have forgotten what it was like to lose elections, while on the national stage too many Liberal Democrats prefer the purity of opposition to the whiff of power.

Steve Richards is political editor of the *New Statesman*

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"You have to pray daily, light a candle – get down on your knees – as far as the prisons are concerned."
Jack Straw,
Home Secretary

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

"It is easier to forgive an enemy than to forgive a friend."
William Blake,
British poet

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WHAT REALLY happened last week at Racak, where 45 people were found dead? Albanian witnesses claim it was a cold-blooded massacre of unarmed civilians. The Serbs affirm that the victims were KLA militants. Only an international inquiry, above all suspicion, will resolve this puzzle. The problem, though, is that the Belgrade authorities have not even once showed themselves as being co-operative in this affair. But why not? Whatever

the conclusions drawn by those leading investigations into this matter, the Racak massacre reveals that the hope of having reached a satisfactory arrangement regarding the Kosovo crisis was an illusory one. *Le Monde*

THE INTERNATIONALISATION of the Kosovo problem was a chance for the Serbs. The observers deployed should have enabled the suspension of combat and a climate essential to

the construction of a solution to the Kosovo problem. That chance has been compromised. Will we ever save the Serbian nation from its own demons? *Le Figaro*

MONITOR

ALL THE NEWS OF THE WORLD

French opinion on the massacre of Kosovans at Racak by the Serbian security forces

THERE IS no doubt that a massacre took place at Racak and that the massacre was the work of the Serbian police. But what was its precise nature? Was it an act of war? The act

of soldiers who lost control? Or perhaps simply the cold-blooded execution of civilians? Should we want to sway opinion in the direction of the last suggestion, was the Kosovo Liberation Army on the scene? Since the massacre the media has attempted in all honesty to reply to these questions. Was the massacre premeditated, or was it precipitated on the ground? The bizarre nature of its chronology and contradictory witness statements

have fanned the flames of suspicion. But in this filthy war over Kosovo, either hypothesis would make sense. The Serbian forces have never distinguished themselves with a respect for the Geneva convention and have always been ready to organise a civilian massacre to terrorise the Albanians. But the KLA, organisation of steel, is also well able to "arrange" truth to sway international opinion. *Liberation*

PANDORA

CONSENSUS POLITICS may have passed on with the retirement of Paddy Ashdown, but the word is that his successor may be selected by mutual agreement. The race between Messrs Campbell, Harvey Hughes and Kennedy will be something of a steeplechase with a photo finish according to insiders. The gang of four, (who may be joined by Taunton MP Jackie Ballard as the token woman candidate) will whittle down to three when Messrs Campbell bows out early and throws his weight behind Charles Kennedy. Into the final straight will go Nick Harvey and Kennedy, buoyed by their connection to the Lib Dem strongholds of the West Country and Scotland respectively. At this point, the party strategists say, Harvey and Kennedy will come to a gentleman's agreement. One source told Pandora "its got to be Charlie". But however Kennedy may enjoy the thrill of the chase, will he have the stomach for the poisoned chalice?

PAUL ROUTLEDGE has accepted a job as a gossip columnist with Geoffrey Robinson's *New Statesman*. The agreement sealed yesterday by the editor, Peter Wilby, hires the *Mirror* man to pen a Westminster diary similar to the Thomas Creevey column Routledge produced for *The Independent* on Sunday. Routledge's employment at the *New Statesman* comes despite the fact that his biography of Peter Mandelson was instrumental in the removal of both Mandelson and Robinson from the Government. Its nice to see that things can be forgiven so easily in New Labourland, but surely, this time around, Routledge will have to be a bit more careful about which of his stories find themselves printed somewhere else.

EARLIER THIS week Paul Routledge was busy at a launch of *Mandy at Politics* bookstore in Westminster. He addressed the gathering in the form of a memo from Peter Mandelson. At the end of the memo, Routledge exclaimed "This was copied to Guardian editor Alan Rusbridger and Oofy Cross-Dresser, 'poking fun at Mandelson's former aide who has now surfaced at The Sun. Old Labour warhorse Austin Mitchell was amongst the crowd to offer his seal of approval on Mandy's demise: 'It was one huge fall for Mandelson and one great leap forward for the Labour Party.'"

THERE WAS some consternation this week at a celebration marking the first ever appearance of the Bolshoi Opera in Britain. The evening, held at the Russian embassy in London, witnessed a cultural gaffe by some of the assembled hacks. A colleague of Pandora's described the scenes as the thirty journeymen tried to order a vodka and tonic: "The poor waiters were dumbfounded as they tried to squeeze a tiny amount of tonic into shot glasses of vodka. They couldn't believe that anyone would want to drink it any other way than straight."

COMEDY'S VERY own investigative reporter Mark Thomas (pictured) can be seen putting Geoffrey Robinson through his paces next week on Channel 4. The multi-millionaire MP receives a visit from Mark Thomas' *Comedy Product* at his Coventry surgery. Unfortunately, Robinson has not booked a venue to see his constituents and resolves the situation by seeing them in the back of his chauffeur-driven Jaguar. "It was a very New Labour solution," one of Thomas' entourage told Pandora.

PANDORA EAGERLY awaits the publication of *Crime Weekly* magazine. The new venture which aims for the *Woman's Weekly* style readership and promises "Death Row interviews" has had its publication date put back. "We have been overwhelmed during recent weeks by the wealth of potential content and massive interest in this subject and we need more time to capitalise on this very positive situation," says Sally O'Sullivan of the publishers, Cabal Communications Ltd. So does this mean that crime does pay after all?

AT AN event organised by the London First group this week Jeffrey Archer told Pandora that if the Conservative Party did not back him for London mayor he "had no right to stand". However, after finding out from an Archer aide, that Jeffrey's campaign now involved 12 organisers, 300 people on the ground and the delivery of "hundreds of thousands of leaflets" Pandora was sceptical about such bravado. As Steven Norris, the other Tory hopeful for Mayor, put it: "If Jeffrey told me it was Tuesday I would have to check my watch."

So what if Jacqueline wasn't a nun?



PHILIP HENSHER

We want a martyr, and martyrs aren't bitter, don't behave badly, and they don't have sex

complaining that the music in the film was merely "background wallpaper for a book story". I mean, what did he want - a movie about voice-leading in fugue and the technique of spicato bowing? Of course it is a human-interest story and concentrates on sex, because that's what film does.

The music critic of *The Daily Telegraph* wrote a characteristi-

cally excitable piece which came perilously close to saying that the film was simply not true, and even if it was true, it wasn't "objective", and even if it was objective, it ought not to have been made because from this day forwards no one will ever think of Jacqueline du Pré as a cellist but just a woman who slept with her sister's husband.

The truth is that all these assertions rest on the common but incorrect belief that audiences are stupid. And I don't see it. On the whole, audiences are more intelligent than the general run of music critics, and are perfectly capable of holding two beliefs about Jacqueline du Pré in their heads: the first is that she was a wonderful cellist; the second is that she was not a nun. They don't seem to me to be obviously incompatible beliefs.

And if she did sleep with her brother-in-law after her life had broken down, with the full knowledge and agreement of all concerned, it may have been reckless, but I can't think it is as disgraceful as all that. Naturally, when someone is crippled by multiple sclerosis, their world narrows a great deal; we

may like to think that, in the same circumstances, we would selflessly turn away a comforting offer of sexual gratification. But I don't think we have any right to complain about it, or even to throw our hands up in horror.

Not that the motives of the family are entirely noble. The really dislikeable thing about the account is not the sex, but the suggestion that Hilary was a much more talented musician whose career was crushed by her pushtier sister. There's not much more unattractive than someone muttering "I could have been a contender", and the claim that Jacqueline du Pré was selfish and ambitious strikes me as simply uninteresting. I expect she was; most people are, who get as far as that and devote so much energy to perfecting their own talent.

The only reason, really, this has aroused so much horror is that it clashes with a much more pervasive and deplorable fiction. The banal myth goes something like this. First, there was the beautiful, glamorous soloist, married to the greatest pianist of the age. Then the tragedy of multiple sclerosis; then the glo-

rious Wagnerian redemption of suffering by the devotion to teaching. That, in broad outline, is the officially approved story.

We want a martyr, and martyrs aren't bitter, don't behave badly, don't have sex. They are saints, blank spaces for our contemplation, and to warm our wicked hearts. She was certainly a very good cellist indeed, and would now be at the top of her profession. Multiple sclerosis and an early death turned her into something much more than that, thanks to PR, sentimentality, and wish-fulfilment. Should we really admire those who die young beyond those who die old?

This really isn't a difficult one. Great musicians are awkward people; their private lives do not necessarily bear much closer inspection than yours or mine, and none of it bears the slightest relation to what we think of their playing. There's no reason at all why one can't believe the broad outline of the story of Hilary and Jackie, and afterwards, go home, put on the familiar recording of the Elgar cello concerto, and find it exactly the same, just as wonderful as ever before.

In China's cruel game, the dissidents are used as pawns



TERESA POOLE

It's time to stop hearing that our human rights dialogue with China is making important strides

this week by the Chinese Communist Party's top law and order official and politburo member, Luo Gan, who spoke of "threats of possible chaos".

He went on: "The party and state officials at all levels are ordered to exhaust all necessary means to ensure political stability and crush crimes... All channels must be used to stabilise elements must be eliminated", adding that "political subversives", "religious sects" and economic crimes would all be targeted by Peking.

Consider the backdrop to those remarks, well illustrated by just some of the events that have emerged over the past fortnight. In Daolin township, Hunan province, at least 3,000 angry farmers clashed with police in a demonstration over heavy illegal taxes and duties imposed by corrupt local officials. In Changde city, also in Hunan, hundreds of state textile workers furiously demonstrated about three months' unpaid wages. In Zizhou county, Shaanxi province, more than 12,000 farmers are suing offi-

cials who tried to collect illegal taxes. In Tianshui city, Gansu province, two labour rights activists were arrested after workers at the Auto Transport Company protested about unpaid pensions.

The Chinese leadership is certainly worried about the number of angry Chinese who are no longer afraid to make their voices heard. President Jiang Zemin knows that China is at its most unstable for 10 years, despite so many aspects of life being unimaginably better than in the not-so-distant Maoist past.

This incipient instability is badly timed for Peking. This is because 1999 has two high-profile anniversaries: the 10th anniversary of the 4 June Tiananmen Square massacre, which China does not intend to mark, and the 1 October 50th anniversary of the Communist founding of the People's Republic of China, an event planned to put the millennium in the shade. The current crackdown is supposed to ensure that no one spoils that party.

For the whole of this year, the vice will be tightened on perceived undesirable "elements". Aside from locking up dissidents, a much more general clamp-down is under way, extending to what Chinese newspapers can get away with, and attempts to impose stricter controls over Internet use.

What really terrifies China is the economy. After mousing intentions for years, the government is now finally turning the screws on rampant smuggling, corruption, embezzlement, illicit borrowing by state units, and huge outflows of illegal hard currency capitals. In the hope of preventing an economic slowdown and to create much-needed employment, it claims to be pumping \$1.2 trillion (£740bn) into the economy in a three-year infrastructure spending binge.



Activists hold pictures of the Chinese dissident Xu Wenli AP

China knows that it must run to stand still. Unemployment is the biggest challenge: attempts to sort out the loss-making state industries are throwing millions on the scrap-heap, and last weekend the government admitted that some 16 million people will be looking for jobs this year that do not exist.

Meanwhile, the main state banks may well be technically insolvent, because too much money has already been poured into the black hole of the state sector. And years of unapproved foreign borrowing by far-flung provincial governments is starting to unravel, most dramatically with the recent bankruptcy of the Guangdong International Trust and Investment Corporation, which amassed debts of \$4.35bn (£2.7bn) against assets of \$2.58bn (£1.6bn).

In such a situation there is no breathing-space for dissidents. Nor is there any perception by the Peking leadership that open political debate and, particularly, an open press might have helped prevent many of today's problems. Instead,

the rounding up and jailing of dissidents, especially those like Mr Xu, involved in the nascent China Democracy Party, illustrates Peking's total intolerance of opposition to Communist Party rule.

Those much-touted human rights "dialogues" - with the US, the European Union, Britain and the United Nations, count for nothing when it comes to China's treatment of its few dissidents. It is time to stop hearing from British officials, as we did repeatedly last year, about how our human rights dialogue with China is making important strides. Many aspects of life in China - such as the right to choose one's employment and freedom to travel - are moving in the right direction, but freedom for those outside the system to air their political views is not one of them.

In this year of the chill, the fact is that the best we in Britain can hope for is that President Jiang decides to release an activist or two to lighten the atmosphere before he flies to London in the autumn to meet the Queen.

Impartiality does not mean neutrality



PODIUM

KOFI ANNAN
From a speech by the Secretary-General of the United Nations to the Council on Foreign Relations in New York

not therefore tell good from evil or victim from aggressor? Of course he can, and precisely for that reason he must persist, for it is ultimately the victim who will benefit from isolation and abandonment by the international community. Impartiality does not - and must not - mean neutrality in the face of evil; it means strict and unbiased adherence to the principles of the Charter -

nothing more, and nothing less.

If I say that one can "do business" with one leader or other, I am not passing moral or any other kind of judgment. Nor am I guaranteeing the future behaviour of any leader or state with regard to their relations with the international community. I am simply carrying out the task that I have been given by the United Nations to seek peaceful resolution to a dispute.

When I went to Nigeria, in July, to advance the process of democratisation, that great nation was undergoing a dramatic period of change. Uncertainty and unease were everywhere, with few able to discern a way out. The death of General Abacha opened a new chapter, and today General Abacha appears determined to honour his pledge to allow popular sovereignty. If only as a bridge, my presence may have served to support a democratic transition at a perilous moment, and in so doing will have advanced not only Nigeria's prospects, but also the aims of the Charter.

When I went to Liberia, in December, I went at a critical time in place my service in the

cause of securing justice for the victims of Lockerbie. I went also in the hope of closing the widening gap between Africa and the West in their treatment of that country. There, our prospects may be less favourable, and certainly no one can predict the time or content of Libya's decision. But if my visit speeded up, even by one day, the closing of this tragic chapter, I believe it will have been worth it - to me and to the United Nations.

Of the missions I embarked on last year, none was fraught with as much risk to my office and to the United Nations as Iraq. The peace we seek in Iraq, as everywhere, is one that reflects the lessons of our terrible century: that peace is not true or lasting if it is bought at any cost; that only peace with justice can honour the victims of war and violence; and that, without democracy, tolerance and human rights for all, no peace is truly safe.

To apply those lessons wherever and whenever possible is a Secretary-General's highest calling and foremost duty - to himself, to his office and to the United Nations.

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TONIGHT, I wish to reflect on the role of the Secretary-General. A Secretary-General must be judged by his fidelity to the principles of the Charter and his advancement of the ideals they embody. In my two years as Secretary-General, I have sought to pursue this role in two distinct ways.

First, by speaking out in favour of universal human rights and in defence of the victims of aggression or abuse, wherever they may be. For Americans, the presidency has been seen as a "bully pulpit", at least since the days of Theodore Roosevelt. I have sought to make the office of Secretary-General a pulpit, too. I have sought to use it as a vehicle for the promotion of the values of tolerance, of democracy, of human rights and of good governance that I believe are universal.

In Tehran, I have paid tribute to the great faith of Islam, while denouncing the terrorism so unjustly carried out in its name. In Harare, I have called on Africans to recognise human rights as their rights as much as anyone else's. In Shanghai, I have spo-

ken out for freedom as the catalyst for China's prosperity. And in the Balkans, I have condemned early and repeatedly the crimes committed in Kosovo, calling on every concerned party to apply the lessons of Bosnia.

Second, I have used my office as a bridge between two or more parties, wherever I believed an opportunity for the peaceful resolution of disputes could be found. To do so, I have travelled many miles and embarked on many missions, confronting not only the doubts of others but my own as well. I have, at times, been as sceptical about a leader's true intentions as anyone, and I have entered every war-zone without any illusions about the prospects for peace or the price of misrule.

But I have persisted, because I must deal with the world not as I would wish it to be, but as it is. I must confront it with a sense of reality about how far a leader can be pushed by peaceful means and how long it will take to bring peace to a state of war. Does this make me, or anyone in my position, by definition morally blind? Can a Secretary-General

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DO YOU ever wonder with you resting on your Club Cookbook Stein's Secret? You're letting people buy radishes, bought radishes, dozen times since it in the late Eighties personal failing, you've managed to from the supermarket, actually sh turned to slime compartment of y

Does it ever bother you that you're a more healthy, a less her, that is better to serve th which they eat, ins eable creatin, w If you've answer three questions, th are a fully paid up Nineties aspiratin club, perching rig edge of our confid le and private live person who has friends.

Imagine you'd years ago. You sa country, in which Yorkshire pudgarnationally score, where the occas meat prawn cock steak and chips, the gateau, and where offering apples, o grapes and banana time was consid corner or.

Now imagine y back here. Everyth as a trip to Salsbu some sta. Fruit, a pack of Chinese will immediately co by the recipe book kitchen shelves of you could be in for Sunday dinner, that doesn't quite cause your hosts a ners of yer another tanner offer at the rant of your chie Open any Satur newspaper, and y tranches of full- dedicated to bring

FIFTEEN YEAR

ican critic and son delivered postmodernism widely accept Ten years ago modish. Now Still, the appe ers of the s Perry Ander from the slus second-rate "Commen son," makes modern ling the absence essential wates comm whosued J. ernism or t capitalism,

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Modern life on a plate



DEBORAH ORR

Politicians are all eating wood-smoked duck in public and ready-made lasagne in private

DO YOU ever worry, as you sit of an evening with your microwave meal resting on your copy of *The Sugar Club Cookbook* watching Rick Stein's *Seafood Odyssey*, that you're letting yourself down?

Do you ever feel that while you've bought radicchio perhaps half-a-dozen times since you first heard of it in the late Eighties, it could be a personal failing that each time you've managed to get some home from the supermarket, it has even-actually (shockingly quickly) turned to slime in the "crisper" compartment of your fridge?

Does it ever bother you that although you'd like the children to eat more healthily, à la Nigel Lawson (bless her), that in the end it feels better to serve them frozen pizza, which they eat, instead of fresh vegetable crostini, which they don't?

If you've answered yes to these three questions, then welcome. You are a fully paid up member of the Nineties aspirational-lifestyle-club, perching right on the knife-edge of our confusions about public and private lives, and you are a person who has many, many friends.

Imagine you'd left Britain 20 years ago. You said goodbye to a country in which roast beef with Yorkshire pudding was the internationally scorned but much-loved family meal on a Sunday, where the occasional meat out meant prawn cocktail Marie Rose, steak and chips, then Black Forest gateau, and where a greengrocer's offering apples, oranges, pears, grapes and bananas all at the same time was considered to be the *demerit*.

Now imagine you've just come back here. Everything is different, as a trip to Sainsbury's to pick up some stuff, a plain or two and a packet of Chinese gooseberries will immediately confirm. Judging by the recipe books gleaning on the kitchen shelves of all your chums, you could be in for seared fresh tuna for Sunday dinner, although even that doesn't quite hit the mark because your hosts are the lucky winners of yet another eat-for-80-at-a-tender offer at the Conran restaurant of your choice.

Open any Saturday or Sunday newspaper, and you will find large tranches of full-colour newspaper dedicated to bringing you stories of



The aspirational face of British eating - chefs Ruth Rogers and Rose Gray at work at the River Café in Hammersmith, west London

David Rose

the latest antics of the latest celebrity chefs, printing their recipes, previewing their television programmes, reviewing their restaurants and detailing their cooking implements and kitchen layouts. If that's not enough for you, then take your pick of luscious, glossy periodicals dedicated to food and drink.

Now, you could be forgiven for imagining that this may just mean something, the something being that Britons are cooking more, eating better, and leading healthier lives. That would be an understandable though silly assumption. That would suggest that consumers consumed, when actually consumers simply purchase.

It's been 20 years since the French philosopher Guy de Bord predicted the "society of the spectacle", in which people would become observers of a world summoned up by the media, but it's certainly not true with us now. And the single example of our fractured, voyeuristic relationship with ourselves that says more than any other is the example set by the gulf between the food we aspire to and the food we eat.

This week's Mintel British Lifestyles 1999 Survey, informed us

yet again that the biggest growth in food spending was in the convenience foods sector - which now accounts for 23 per cent of all the food we eat - while our overall spending on food to eat in the home has declined. Some of this, you may be forgiven for assuming, is because we're all eating out a great deal more. But actually, only around a fifth of us hit a restaurant twice a week or more, while another fifth eat out "only occasionally".

As for cooking, fewer and fewer people are doing it, with large swathes of the population considering reheating a packet of frozen chicken Kiev actually to be cooking. As for the traditional Sunday dinner, it's now a tradition that fewer and fewer of us observe.

While some of the burgeoning army of food celebrities, led by Delia Smith with her latest offering, *How To Cook*, are attempting to address this very basic lack of knowledge and skill, some arresting sales of specialist pans doesn't necessarily mean that we're getting back in the kitchen. These sales, like the sales of the books themselves, are indications only of our heartless - but somehow thwarted - desire to do so.

And far from living healthier

lifestyles, we are becoming less healthy at a quite alarming rate. Obesity and digestive difficulties plague us, while our children have become so sedentary and so addicted to junk food that even though we actually eat less than we used to, we weigh more.

Across the board our fat to muscle ratio is moving ever towards lardiness, bringing with it the astonishing fact that our children will grow up with the lowest life expectancy in living memory. And if the fat doesn't get them then the food itself might, for food poisoning of every kind is on the increase. Even more depressing, in Britain today more than four million children are estimated to be suffering from malnutrition.

But this isn't simply a rerun of the old situation in which a cultural elite's living habits gain huge, unchallenged currency. Certainly there are some privileged "foodies" around who really live in the River Café society (hey, like General Pinochet and Tony Blair), but there are plenty of ordinary people who ardently aspire to it.

All of the major soap operas now have their local restaurant as well as their local pub. Even in the land that time forgot, *Coronation*

Street, Natalie is introducing ciabatta and deep-fried potato-skins to the Rover's Return, in an as-yet unheard-of challenge to the ancient hegemony of Betty Turpin's hotpot. Across the road Roy's Rolls is in the midst of a makeover which will make it Weatherfield's answer to the River Café itself.

The truth is that British eating habits have developed a sophisticated and aspirational public face, while in private we cling to comfort and convenience. An unsympathetic critic might encapsulate this phenomenon within the dread phrase "style over substance", but this is too glib and rather underplays the significance of our schizophrenic attitudes to our public and private lives, and not only as far as food is concerned.

Our obsession with this new wave of fancy foodism began in the Eighties along with yuppies and property-owning democracies. It was initially distrusted and satirised, particularly by the left, as being a symptom of that greedy decade. But this new decade, the Nineties, far from developing its own discrete character, has been marked by the process of normalisation whereby the excesses of one decade have become the facts of life

in the next. And if the personal is political, then food and power are inextricably entwined.

So it's perfectly fitting that the seal was set on the New Labour leadership with a dinner at the fashionable Islington restaurant Granita, while its greatest crisis was precipitated by a man who wished to project a certain lifestyle but didn't want anyone to know he couldn't pay for it.

If only this was merely a matter of style over substance. Instead it's a question of public affluence masking private poverty. Which is why politicians are so keen to protect their privacy while seeing no contradiction in wishing to project their image and why they no longer seem able to judge what behaviour is appropriate for public life. They're all eating wood-smoked duck in public and ready-made lasagne (the most popular chilled meal in Britain) in private.

We really are what we eat. And what we are is sophisticated, aspirational, poised and capable in public; overstretched, confused, tired and unable to meet our commitments at home. Let's hope that Delia can tell us *How To Cook* as quickly as she can, and then that Nigel can tell us *How To Eat*.

RIGHT OF REPLY

NATHANIEL KEKANA

A member of the South African Parliament responds to Fergal Keane's recent article on township life

CYNTHIA MATHEBE'S story is testimony to the courage and patience of millions of South Africans, as well as to the vicious historical legacy that the first democratically elected government is charged with transforming.

But life has changed for millions of South Africans. Cynthia is now a citizen of her country. Her children receive free medical care and a nourishing meal at school. In the foreseeable future she will receive a serviced site and a subsidy to build a brick dwelling.

For citizens of developed countries it is hard to imagine the hardship that most South Africans experience daily. That tap, referred to so lightly in Fergal Keane's article, represents a major change in the lives of millions of our people. Without running water, South African women spent up to six hours a day collecting water. Government recently announced the country's three-millionth recipient of water services.

Over 400,000 people per year are receiving electricity for the first time. A thousand houses are built daily. By the end of this year government will have provided housing for 850,000 households.

But transformation is not just about houses and taps. Cynthia's domestic worker daughter is, for the first time, protected by law against exploitation. She cannot be fired arbitrarily. She cannot be forced to work on Sundays without extra compensation, and she enjoys basic workers' rights. Cynthia cannot be evicted from the land she occupies without due process and, for the first time, enjoys basic human rights that in developed countries are taken for granted.

Would that government could wave a wand and eradicate poverty and its evils. But our government is committed to fiscal discipline, a discipline that has paid dividends by ensuring that our economy has weathered the global melt-down of markets better than any other developing economy. The ANC-led government is committed to the needs of the many, not the few.

Portrait of the artist as a critic

FRIDAY BOOKS

THE CULTURAL TURN: SELECTED WRITINGS ON THE POSTMODERN, 1983-1998

BY FREDRIC JAMESON, VERSO, £11

THE ORIGINS OF POSTMODERNITY

BY PERRY ANDERSON, VERSO, £11

FIFTEEN YEARS ago, when the American critic and theorist Fredric Jameson delivered a benchmark lecture on postmodernism, the term was "not widely accepted or even understood". Ten years ago, it seems almost quaint. Still, the appearance of books by players of the stature of Jameson and Perry Anderson quickly rouses one from the slumber induced by years of "second-rate discourse-speak".

"Commentary," according to Jameson, "makes up the special field of post-modern linguistic practice," even in the absence of "the sacred text" - the essential work that usually generates commentary. Into this vacuum Jameson's book *Postmodernism: or the cultural logic of late capitalism*, in which he made this de-



claration. Effectively, this pioneering work was a commentary on its own existence, or at least on how the author's thought had evolved. The essays Jameson has collected in *The Cultural Turn* are further addenda to his *magnum opus*.

Perry Anderson's little book *The Origins of Postmodernity* was initially intended as an introduction to *The Cultural Turn*, but then it outgrew its brief. Within Anderson's own formidable work as a historian and cultural theorist, it takes its place as the final volume in a trilogy, after *Considerations on Western Marxism* and *In the Tracks of Historical Materialism*. In them, exactly as prescribed by Jameson, the task of commentary is raised to the level of primary intellectual exploration.

Since Jameson is the central figure in Anderson's book, it is also the latest instance of the sustained grappling with writers or thinkers that feature in his magisterial collection of essays, *A Zone of Engagement*. In the past, "an element of resistance" was always an ingredient in Anderson's impulse to write about someone. Here, however, he lacks "the safety of sufficient distance".

Before celebrating Jameson's achievement, Anderson takes us through the genealogy of the idea of the postmodern. He displays the same breadth and depth of learning as he did in working through the background to Fukuyama's influential con-

cept of the "end of history". Anderson locates the first usage of "postmodern" in the Hispanic world of the 1930s. Arnold Toynbee and Charles Olson also used the term in the 1950s, but it is not until Jean-François Lyotard's book *The Postmodern Condition* (1979) that we get a sense of "of postmodernity as a general change of human circumstance".

The foreword to the English edition was written by Jameson himself. He went on to make the crucial step of anchoring postmodernism "in objective alterations of the economic order of capital itself". Jameson linked the concept to "the saturation of every pore

of the world in the serum of capital". This fundamental intervention was followed by "a majestic expansion of the postmodern across virtually the whole spectrum of the arts". It is this totalising ambition, I guess, that has led Anderson to write about someone without his usual feeling of "significant dissent".

Does this absence mean that the book lacks some of his customary bite? Anderson's lack of resistance certainly exacerbates the reader's. My local objections generate more general ones. "Is there any contemporary critic with an even distantly comparable range?" he asks, of Jameson. Of course

there is: John Berger. How come Anderson has never got to grips with him?

Having quoted Jameson's observation that, of the thinkers of Western Marxism, Theodor Adorno "was the supreme stylist", Anderson wonders "whether the description does not better... apply to [Jameson] himself." It might even better apply in Anderson himself. Anderson reckons that Jameson is "a great writer", but it seems to me that Anderson himself is the great writer. Jameson, on the other hand, is trapped in the prison-house of his peculiar idea of virtuosity.

Anderson admires "the spacious rhythms of a complex, yet supple syntax" but the flamboyant baroque of Jameson's prose is an irritating impediment to what is being said. If Jameson's influence is as extensive as Anderson suggests, then he must shoulder much of the blame for the torrent of discursive gabble that has fatally contaminated the field. Reading Jameson, I am reminded of those T-shirts on which "Dazed and Confused" is printed, deliberately indistinctly, so that the more sharply you focus, the more blurred the words become.

Is this just me being stupid? I think not, since Perry Anderson's prose, for me, has always had exactly the "compelling splendour" he finds in Jameson. If the obligation to look up words like "usufruct" or "exordium" is an inherent part of reading Anderson, that is because he is working at the cutting-edge of language. His exacting vocabulary is part and parcel of an impulse to present complex ideas without simplification but with the elegance of absolute clarity. In doing so, he reminds us of the inadequacy of confining the search for great stylists to fiction.

GEOFF DYER



Postmodern paradigm: Coca-Cola in the mosque

Reuters

The reviewer's latest novel is *Paris Trance* (Abacus)

FRIDAY POEM

SONG FOR A DARK GIRL
BY LANGSTON HUGHES

Way Down South in Dixie
(Break the heart of me)
They hung my black young lover
To a cross roads tree.

Way Down South in Dixie
(Bruised body high in air)
I asked the white Lord Jesus
What was the use of prayer.

Way Down South in Dixie
(Break the heart of me)
Love is a naked shadow
On a gnarled and naked tree.

This poem comes from the 'Selected Poems' of Langston Hughes, reissued next week by Serpent's Tail (£7.99)

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THERE'S NO SUBSTITUTE FOR THE OU EXPERIENCE

John Golding

IN THE affairs of the Labour Party, there have been men and women who have had less than their share of the headlines, but whose importance in the party has been out of all proportion to their public profile. John Golding was a man of passionate beliefs about furthering the cause of working people. What he believed and whom he supported were matters of the utmost consequence. For two decades he was a really important, if unsung, figure in British politics.

Golding was the self-proclaimed arch scourge of the militant tendency. He relished the role. Dennis Skinner, on being told of Golding's death, reflected: "As a member of right-wing Old Labour, he and I sparred for years on the National Executive Committee. John organised the votes of the Right and I organised the votes of the Left." He added with more than a tinge of affection and admiration: "John knew the rules inside out and he used them to the utmost advantage of the Right."

In 1983 when Golding opposed the Telecommunications Bill he made history by speaking for 11 hours, along with many other filibustering interventions for the purpose of making it as difficult as possible for Mrs Thatcher's government to implement the rip-off privatisation of British Telecom. Few MPs have caused an addition to the Parliamentary textbook, *Erskine May*. Golding's activities were responsible for standing order no 29, agreed on 27 February 1986, that a member may rise in his place and move "that the question be now proposed" when a member is in the course of making a motion or moving an amendment at any stage of proceedings on a Bill.

Golding, the supreme tactician, had spotted that he could speak for - proverbially - ever before the Chairman could move "the question be now put". The Chairman of this Committee was the eagle-eyed Miss Betty Boothroyd, who whatever her personal exasperation, understood the then rules of Committee better than anyone. She had also served for some years on the National Executive Committee of the Labour Party with Golding, and said of him: His priority was the Labour movement where he spent a lifetime advocating, cherishing and advancing the cause of democratic socialism. I witnessed the fight he put up and how he expressed his passionate views on behalf of the British telecommunications industry. In addition he was a fine friend to many of us.

John Golding was born of a pottery worker's family, his father later

becoming a chef. After Chester City Grammar School he became a Civil Service clerk, first of all at the local Rivers Board and Fire Brigade and then at the Ministry of National Insurance (1948-51). He went to work for the Post Office and soon became involved in the Post Office Engineering Union who, spotting his obvious intelligence and nous, sent him on a TUC scholarship to the London School of Economics.

Later he did a PhD at Keele University where his subject, revealingly, was Thomas Hobbes and the *Leviathan*. In 1960 he was appointed the Assistant Research Officer of the Post Office Engineering Union being promoted to Education Officer four years later. He was one of the trade unionists who played an important part in the series of two-way traffic in ideas, the so-called Bonnington conferences, which formed the background work to

Golding was determined to make it his life's work to help young people live in an attractive environment rather than an ugly one

Harold Wilson's appeal before the 1964 general election on the White Heat of the technological revolution. In the summer of 1968 Steven Swingle, the Minister for Pensions, and MP for Newcastle-under-Lyme, suddenly died and on 30 October John Golding, by 21,786 votes to 20,744, defeated the young Nicholas Winterton, now MP for Macclesfield, in the ensuing by-election. In 1970 Golding defeated Winterton in another hard-fought campaign by 2,106 votes and subsequently held the seat comfortably against Sir Nicholas Bonser, later a Foreign Office minister.

He was immensely proud of representing Newcastle-under-Lyme both because of his father's connection as a pottery worker and be-

cause the seat was once represented by the great Josiah Wedgwood. Within weeks of arriving at the House of Commons, he was appointed as Parliamentary Private Secretary to the Minister for Industry, Eric Varley, one of Harold Wilson's closest associates.

Mark Fisher, MP for Stoke and thus his Parliamentary neighbour described how "John was a wonderful and much loved constituency MP. He also was a great expert on the Tote on which he did much constructive work."

Golding's causes were numerous. He was one of the first to highlight the problems of derelict land and badger ministers into coming up with a constructive policy for areas which were not only eyesores but health hazards. With his legendary passion for fishing, Golding was appalled by how the countryside had been devastated in the past by industrialisation and was determined to make it his life's work to help young people live in an attractive environment rather than an ugly one. From the mid-Sixties he was one of the first to make his fellow politicians aware of the problems of air pollution.

Another theme which he pursued relentlessly - I admired him for his capacity to be relentless in worthwhile causes - were the evils which arose from low pay. He was one of the first to campaign for a national minimum wage and highlighted this cause as long ago as his maiden speech in November 1969.

Employers will not modernise and pay higher wages without being faced with competition, and in such areas as north Staffordshire where there is a great reliance on traditional industries - industries not responsive to change - it is most important that they have new technical industries.

Like many of his colleagues I shall remember Golding for his contributions year after year to the Labour Party Conference. In 1970 he strode to the platform and memorably on the Friday morning of conference told us some home truths: "The health service in my constituency seems to me at times to exist for the benefit of the medical profession rather than the patient. Dick Crossman paid too much attention to the views of the medical profession and too little to the Labour government."

Throughout his political life Golding, with a twinkle in his eye, expressed scepticism about the claims of many professional people who he thought had an exaggerated view of their own contribution to human welfare.



Golding campaigning for the seat of Newcastle-under-Lyme at the 1969 by-election; he was MP 1969-86

In 1974 he said to the Labour Conference:

I say this bluntly because experience shows that those individual members without a strong union loyalty seem increasingly to prefer those who are trained professional advocates - the lawyers, the lecturers, the teachers, the broadcasters - to those who are manual workers. While we recognise the great contribution that the professional advocate is making in Parliament and in the constituencies we believe that it is still very important that the Parliamentary Labour Party continues to have a strong manual trade union group.

He was a champion of widows and believed that they ought to be able to go to an official who would help them with letters of administration, tax, social security benefits, transfer tenancies, and all those things

which add to the shock and confusion of bereavement.

At many by-elections, up and down Britain, I went canvassing with Golding. Invariably he carried one of those copybooks with him on which he would write a letter in his own hand and then despatching it in an envelope to the relevant official outlining the grievance which had been put to him on the doorstep. On a yellow page he had a copy of what he had written and would betide anyone who received one of these letters and did nothing about it. He followed up every complaint.

After a period as a Government Whip, Golding was appointed by Jim Callaghan to a ministerial job for which he was supremely suited, that of Parliamentary Secretary at

the Department of Employment. He was particularly concerned about subsidies which had poured millions of pounds away from the public sector into private enterprise. They had helped bring the nationalised industries into disrepute with the public and had severely undermined the morale of workers in the nationalised industries themselves.

As a former member of the Select Committee on Nationalised Industries, under the chairmanship of Ian Mordaunt, who had a high regard for Golding's energy, drive and knowledge, he had made himself something of an expert on nationalised industries other than that of the Post Office. In the Post Office's union he was a central, if controversial, figure in tandem with his friend Bryan

Stanley, the union's long-serving General Secretary.

In all the difficulties which faced Labour following the defeat of the Callaghan government by Mrs Thatcher, Golding played a central role. He remained staunchly loyal to the Labour Party and was genuinely shocked at the actions of Shirley Williams and, as he put it, "others of a gentle upbringing" to leave the Labour Party in 1980-81. He saw Tony Benn, Eric Heffer, and others, as making it impossible to win elections and he was vehemently against supporting Peter Tatchell as the Labour candidate in Bermondsey.

When his own constituency was targeted and taken over by people sympathetic to the militant tendency in 1983-85 he was refused re-election, as a prime target of the Left. Amidst bitterly fought wrangling of enormous complexity he gave up his Parliamentary seat at a moment when he thought, on the assumption that he could return to retiring age to his union as General Secretary. Arrangements were made that the Newcastle seat should be contested by Lina Golding, formerly Secretary of the Newcastle Labour Party, with whom he had had a warm and loving marriage since 1980, and who was the daughter of Ness Edwards MP. Clement Attlee's Foremaster General and for many years Chairman of the Trade Union Group of Labour MPs.

The last speech I heard him make was on 23 January 1985, appropriately on post office closures: "Our post offices are now more crowded on Thursdays than was the Black Hole of Calcutta, but the talk is not of relief but of further closures. Why should we treat our old people in such a way?"

TAM DALRYMPLE

John Golding, post office worker, trade union official and politician: born Birmingham 9 March 1931; Education Officer, Post Office Engineering Union (POEU) 1964-68; MP (Labour) for Newcastle-under-Lyme 1969-86; Opposition Whip 1970-74; Government Whip 1974; Parliamentary Under-Secretary for Employment 1976-79; Chairman, Select Committee on Employment 1979-1982; member of the National Executive Committee of the Labour Party 1978-83; General Secretary, National Communications Union 1988-89; married 1958 Thelma Gwilym (one son, and one son deceased; marriage dissolved); 1980 Lina Lewis (née Edwards); died 20 January 1999.

Serge Ganjou

GEORGE ROBEY, "The Prime Minister of Mirth", Charles Coburn with his "Two Lovely Black Eyes", Marie Lloyd junior as her mother, the original "Ruin That Cromwell Knocked About a Bit", and the eccentric dance trio Wilson, Keppel and Betty in "Cleopatra's Nightmare". These were just some of the veteran variety stars that shone in the film *Variety Jubilee*, made by the minor company of Butcher's Empire Productions back in 1943.

Shiniest of all on the star-studded bill, certainly the most unique, was the act of the Ganjou Brothers and Juanita. They are top of the bill in the film, just as they almost always were on the live variety stage, and today simply take one's breath away by their absolute perfection in a beautifully timed and stunningly perfect 10 minutes of - what should one call it? an acrobatic act? a dance act? an adagio act? a mime act? a strong-man act? Serge Ganjou entitled it "A Romance in Porcelain", so perhaps it is best to leave it at that.

The setting was usually something looking like a large and outsize mantelpiece upon which stood a highly decorative clock. The pendulum, played by the beautiful Juanita, petite of form but long of leg, swung to and fro to the music of "The Blue Danube". On came the Ganjou Brothers, a trio clad in powdered

wigs, tights, decorated waistcoats and billowing shirts. Juanita swung down and the three men began to swing her around, about and above their heads, eventually flinging her from one to another across the wide stage, and tossing her over their heads from shoulder to shoulder. Finally they threw her high in the air, spun her round and round, caught her in an upright stance and froze in a pose that brought the house down with applause.

Serge was the last remaining member of the troupe. Active until almost the end of the had been treasurer and life president of the Entertainment Artists Benevolent Fund and a popular member of the Grand Order of Water Rats; he had ordered the show-business retirement home at Brixworth House, Twickenham, only two months before he died.

Ganjou was Polish, having been born in Warsaw in 1904, while his brothers Bob and George were born in southern Russia. Children of a poor family they all worked in a number of jobs whilst travelling from town to town. They were working in Moscow when the Russian Revolution began in 1917.

They swiftly returned to Warsaw and in 1922 Bob and George emigrated to the United States while Serge went to university to pursue his

studies. Between times he entered several local talent contests, winning the prize with his gypsy songs sung to his own guitar. This success prompted him to form a musical quartet with three other winners, and the group was soon making a living by touring the village halls of Poland.

Meanwhile Serge's brothers en-

What should one call it? an acrobatic act? a dance act? a mime act? a strong-man act?

tered American show business by teaming up with another male dancer and a well-known danseuse of the day, Natacha Natova. This was the beginning of adagio quartets, and led to their first cinema appearance in an early talkie, MGM's *Hollywood Revue* of 1929. When Natova returned to solo performing, the Ganjou found another young lady around whom they built their act.

This was Juanita Richards, petite and graceful, who was born in Detroit, Michigan. She mixed her dancing work as a ballerina with several American companies with considerable fame as a broadcasting vocalist with more than one radio dance-band. When she had time she also worked as an artist's model. She joined the act in 1931.

The third male member of the original team was William Hendricks from Copenhagen, Denmark. He had emigrated to New York at the age of 13, and had won an international Charleston dance championship. Becoming a solo singer and dancer in several South American cabarets, Hendricks had much experience in several different adagio teams before joining the Ganjous.

The original Ganjou Brothers and Juanita act, which became famous in England when they starred in the *Royal Variety Show* of May 1933 included two singers, Aline Fournier and Vittorio Toso. Fournier, a coloratura soprano, was a French Canadian from Montreal, while the Italian-born Toso had been principal baritone with the San Carlo Opera.

Serge Ganjou was working in London when his brothers' act arrived in 1932. He joined them and in due course married "Juanita" - not the original Juanita, who had left, but the dancer Joy Marlowe who took

her place. She had been trained at the Italia Conti School and soon got the hang of holding herself taut as she was swung to and fro, smiling prettily while the ceremony was held in Las Vegas during their final tour of 1936.

A hugely successful international act, the Ganjou Brothers and Juanita played to appreciative audiences around the world, touring America, Australia and New Zealand before finally disbanding. Bob and George Ganjou became variety agents, while Serge opened Daquise restaurant in South Kensington, specialising in dishes from his native Poland; a much-loved landmark in the area, it still flourishes in spite of several threats by developers.

One member of the act remains, the tall, svelte, long-haired lady who takes over conducting the Charles Shadwell Orchestra in their only film. Clearly part of the regular stage scope, she waves her long arms with airy elegance. She was Adele, the wife of George Ganjou, who died in 1988. Bob died in 1972, and Joy in 1992. But, as long as film continues to be preserved, their unique act will live.

DENIS GIFFORD

Serge Ganjou, variety artist: born Warsaw 6 January 1904; married 1936 Joy Marlowe (died 1992); died Twickenham, Middlesex



'Orgiastic tableau': the Ganjou Brothers and Juanita in 1937, with Serge at bottom right. Hulton Getty

Bernard Lefort



'Caractere difficile' AFP

BERNARD LEFORT had three careers. The first was as a distinguished baritone. In the second he combined musical administration with the flair of a market-minded impresario. And in the third, that of singing teacher, he passed on the techniques learned in the first career in a framework informed by the second.

Having obtained his baccalaurat in philosophy Lefort was studying politics and law, simultaneously taking classes in voice and solfège at the Paris Conservatoire, when he was interrupted by the Second World War. With the return of peace, he decided to concen-

trate on music alone, pursuing his vocal studies in Milan, Berlin and Vienna. By then he had already made his debut in a series of wartime recitals in the Salle Gaveau in Paris, presenting in particular French melodies by contemporary composers, such as Les Six, Olivier Messiaen, André Jolivet and Henri Dutilleul.

He was also heard in the opera house, making his stage debut (at the Palais Garnier) in *Don Giovanni* and Verdi's *Macbeth*. With Germaine Tailleferre, the only woman member of Les Six (the others were Darius Milhaud, Arthur Honegger, Francis Poulenc,

Georges Auric and Louis Durey), Lefort formed a regular duo partnership, touring together from 1949 to 1957. Tailleferre responded to Lefort's musicianship by composing her *Concerto for Baritone* for him; other composers were to pay him similar honours during the course of his singing career - which was abruptly cut short by serious illness in 1960.

Lefort therefore embarked on his second occupation, the one for which he will be best remembered. He began his life as a musical administrator as second-in-command at the Lausanne Festival, taking over the

Marselles opera in 1965. His three years there were marked by a refreshing openness to new repertoire, both old and new. Lefort looked out old bel canto operas that had long fallen into neglect (Ponchielli's *La Gioconda* and Donizetti's *Lucrèce Borgia*, for example) and put on contemporary works, often for the first time in France, such as Janáček's *The Makropulos Affair*, Henze's *The Prince of Homburg* and Britten's *The Turn of the Screw*.

He then moved up through a series of appointments: head of the autumn festival at Royanmont (1969), artistic adviser at the Théâtre de la Ville, Paris

(1969-78), temporary head of the Opéra de Paris (1971-72), with Daniel Lesur and director of the festival at Aix-en-Provence (1973-80). It was at Aix that he scored some of his most notable successes, perhaps the best of them his bringing together of Montserrat Caballé and Marilyn Horne in Rossini's *Turandot*. He also lightened the atmosphere considerably: to the discomfort of Aix's old guard, jeans replaced evening gowns as standard attire, and the festival came alive.

When Rolf Liebermann left the Paris Opéra in 1980, Lefort was called back to succeed him, but his efforts at reform met such systematic opposition from the unions that he resigned halfway through his contract, in July 1982.

This was when career number three began. Lefort taught singing at Marnes College in New York and at the Academy of Vocal Art in Philadelphia; at the Juilliard School in New York he produced a student production of Gounod's *Mireille*. And in the late 1980s, he founded the Ecole d'art lyrique in Paris.

Lefort was diplomatically referred to as a "personnage flamboyant" and a "caractère difficile" and earned a repu-

tation for his short temper. He is generally assumed to have been homosexual, although Paris musical gossip talks obscurely of an earlier marriage to a well-off American woman. Whatever the truth of it, he faced old age as poor as he was lonely. He had already attempted suicide on several occasions and a week after moving back to Paris from homes in Lausanne and the Midi, he finally succeeded.

MARTIN ANDERSON

Bernard Lefort, singer, administrator, teacher: born Paris 29 July 1922; died Paris 19 January 1999.

Ahmed

AHMED POCHEE was a man injected a fresh spirit of irreverence and fun into the staid world of wine trade. The fact that he was himself, or anyone else, too serious was the key both to his success and to the trappings of success which he compared to the job he loved little compared to the job he loved.

The founder of Oddbins in the 1970s, Pochee was a wheeler-dealer. Right until his death from myo-fibrosis, in his element sniffing out bankrupt stock in railway yards, the East End and selling them back to his battered blue Mercos to the posh wine merchants of St James's.

Born in 1939, and brought up in London, to an Indian father and a mother, Pochee was an unlikely leader in the East Finchley Boys' Club. He contracted meningitis before hotel management and an economics degree (charter school failing to finish it at the Street polytechnic before following the culinary footsteps of his father who had opened Edinburgh's Indian restaurant.

As a sous-chef at Simpson's Strand and then a porter at Aldi wine merchants, the world of wine and restaurants led him to a subterranean cellar. With his charming cellar and restaurant, he was soon tapping into a seam of surplus stocks of off-the-peg wine. Starting to trade in parcels and bins of wine, he set up a business, Oddbins, when he had a loan from his brother John Bennett.

At this time, high-street off-licence were largely in the hands of brewers looking for an outlet for their brands. Pochee's Oddbins, a breezy anarchic style, its knowledgeable staff and the inevitable music of Davis and Nina Simone, started a process of blowing the cobwebs from the old-fashioned off-licence. Thresher launched Wine Rack, a decade later as a "revolutionary" concept. Pochee could wryly: "That's strange, we 20 years ago and we didn't call it a revolutionary then."

BUDDY FEYNE was not one of Alley's legendary songwriters a long and varied career, he wrote to two popular instrumental pieces, "Tuxedo Junction" and "Jersey Bounce".

Born Bernard Feinstein in grew up in the tough Spanish section of New York City, and from an early age, to be part of the business. While singing with various bands in and around New he began writing special material himself and other vocalists. Buddy Feyne when he met Milton A. in the 1930s. "Feinstein sounds Jewish," advised the comedian, himself began life as Berlinguer.

In 1939 "Tuxedo Junction" introduced by Erskine Hawkins hand at the Savoy Ballroom, York, and was an immediate song was named after a railroad in Alabama, its instrumental composed by Hawkins and his phoneists Bill Johnson and Julius helped immeasurably by "Dud" Bascomb's muted but s-

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS

DEATHS

RYLANDS: The funeral service of CH CBE, Fellow of King's College, Cambridge, will be held in King's College Chapel on Monday 25 January at 3pm. No flowers, but donations may be sent to Cambridge Arts Theatre Trust, St Edward's Passage, Cambridge CB2 3PL.

Announcements for Gazette BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS (Births, Deaths, Adoptions, Marriages, Weddings, Memorial services, Wedding anniversaries, in memoriam) are charged at £6.50 a line (VAT extra). OTHER Gazette announcements (notices, funerals, marriages, marriages) must be submitted in writing. Charges are £10 a line, VAT extra. Always include a daytime telephone number. The Independent's main switchboard number is 0171-233 2000.

Ahmed Pochee

AHMED POCHÉE was a maverick who injected a fresh spirit of irreverence and fun into the staid world of the wine trade. The fact that he never took himself, or anyone else, too seriously, was the key both to his success and his low profile. He was an anti-hero for whom the trappings of success meant little compared to the job he loved doing.

The founder of Oddbins in the 1960s and the Great Wapping Wine Company in the 1970s, Pochee was the arch wheeler-dealer. Right until his untimely death from myxo-fibrosis, he was in his element sniffing out parcels of bankrupt stock in railway arches of the East End and selling them from the back of his battered blue Mercedes van to the posh wine merchants of Fulham and St James's.

Born in 1933, and brought up in north London, to an Indian father and English mother, Pochee was an unlikely patrol leader in the East Finchley Boy Scouts, before he contracted meningitis. He studied hotel management and started an economics degree (characteristically failing to finish it) at the Regent Street polytechnic before following in the culinary footsteps of his father, who had opened Edinburgh's first Indian restaurant.

As a sous-chef at Simpson's in the Strand and then a porter at Allott's, the wine merchants, the world of hotels and restaurants led him to London's subterranean cellars. With his knack of charming cellar and restaurant managers, he was soon tapping into the rich seam of surplus stocks of often undervalued wine. Starting to trade in odd parcels and bins of wine, he set up his own business, Oddbins, when he was 21, with a help of a loan from his best friend, John Benetti.

At this time, high-street off-licences were largely in the hands of the big brewers looking for an outlet for their brands. Pochee's Oddbins, with its breezy anarchic style, its knowledgeable staff and the inevitable music of Miles Davis and Nina Simone, started the process of blowing the cobwebs away from the old-fashioned off-licence. When Thresher launched Wine Rack two decades later as a "revolutionary" new high-street concept, Pochee commented wryly: "That's strange; we did that 20 years ago and we didn't call it revolutionary then."

When the London docks were being closed in the late 1960s, Pochee struck a deal with Customs and Excise whereby, on payment of the excise duty, he was able to lay his hands on large quantities of unclaimed parcels of wine. Despite the fact that 1968 was a dreadful vintage, he cocked a snook at the traditional wine trade by selling classified clarets with grand names such as Beychevelle Cos d'Estournel and Grand Puy Lacoste for 19s 11d (99p). This was the sort of thing which made Oddbins' reputation for extraordinary bargains and appealed to newcomers to wine who were put off by the wine trade's crusty image.

Wheeler-dealing was Pochee's métier, based on a profound understanding of the value of wine and the difference between what he could pay for it and what he could get for it. With the Great Wapping Wine Company, started in 1972, he was an early pioneer of the pile-it-high, sell-it-cheap philosophy which led to the likes of the Majestic Wine Warehouse chain. Along with wine, he introduced special imports of virgin olive oils, cheeses and fish considered exotic at the time.

Pochee's Oddbins started the process of blowing the cobwebs away from the old-fashioned off-licence

But his capacity for successful retailing was limited. According to his former partner Tony Mason, now with Majestic, "his innovative spirit was not matched by entrepreneurial ability or respect for the rules".

Gleefully antisocial, Pochee went out of his way to ruffle the feathers of the pompous. At the end of one particularly boring black tie dinner, he announced he was going to remove the table cloth, leaving everything on the table intact. In fact, he brought glasses, bottles, cutlery and crockery crashing to the floor.



While his eccentric personality inspired affection in many, his mischievous spirit did not endear him to the wine trade establishment. In fact it is widely believed that, when the big boys put Oddbins into receivership in 1973, it was done out of spite. Oddbins was able to pay all its creditors in full, with plenty left over for the shareholders.

Pochee loved horse-riding and travelling. In the 1970s, Pochee's aeroplane crashed into dense jungle in Kenya. Despite being badly injured, he spent a week following the river downstream with his son and nephew to safety. He

ran for Highgate Harriers, competing in several marathons, and achieving a personal best of two hours 40 minutes as a veteran.

In the last two years of his life, when he knew he was terminally ill, he carried on trading in the beloved grimy van from which, on his instructions, the final delivery, his coffin, was lifted.

ANTHONY ROSE

Ahmed Pochee, wine merchant; born London 23 September 1933; twice married (three sons, one daughter); died London 18 December 1998.

Buddy Feyne

BUDDY FEYNE was not one of Tin Pan Alley's legendary songwriters, but, in a long and varied career, he did put words to two popular instrumental pieces, "Tuxedo Junction" and "The Jersey Bounce".

Born Bernard Feinstein in 1912, he grew up in the tough Spanish Harlem section of New York City, and longed, from an early age, to be part of the music business. While singing with various obscure bands in and around New York, he began writing special material for himself and other vocalists. He became Feyne when he met Milton Berle in the 1930s. "Feinstein sounds too Jewish," advised the comedian, who had himself begun life as Berlinger.

In 1939 "Tuxedo Junction" was introduced by Erskine Hawkins and his band at the Savoy Ballroom, in New York, and was an immediate hit. The song was named after a railroad stop in Alabama, its instrumental was composed by Hawkins and his saxophonists Bill Johnson and Julian Dash. Helped immeasurably by Wilburn "Dud" Bascomb's mated but swinging

trumpet solo (often mistakenly credited to Hawkins), the band's recording for the Bluebird label was its highest ever success, and the piece soon replaced Hawkins' "Swing-Out" as his signature tune.

White bands of the day often looked to black bands for material and Glenn Miller soon recorded his own version of "Tuxedo Junction" for the same label, scoring an even greater hit. When it was decided to add words to the music, the 28-year-old Feyne was sent by his publisher to meet Hawkins as a possible lyricist. After hearing "Tuxedo" only once, he impressed the bandleader by dashing off the complete lyric on the spot. The song was successfully recorded by the Andrews Sisters and by Jan Savitt and other orchestras.

Feyne and Bill Johnson's "Dolomite" record for Bluebird by the Hawkins band caught the attention of Jimmy Dorsey, who recorded it with his orchestra for Decca (1940).

Feyne became a member of the American Society of Composers and Publishers (ASCAP) in 1940 and con-

tinued his association with Erskine Hawkins that same year by collaborating with Robert B. Wright on the words of "After Hours", a haunting blues piece originally composed as an instrumental for the Hawkins band by its chief arranger and pianist Avery Parrish.

In the late 1930s Feyne was busy in radio, not only as a solo singer, but as a writer-producer of the series *Rhythm School of the Air*. During the Second World War he served overseas with the 77th Infantry Division, presenting Army shows and winning the Bronze Star. After the war, he wrote and produced for television, provided both words and music for Time for Fun, an album of children's songs, and launched a music publishing firm.

In 1946 he and Robert B. Wright put words to "The Jersey Bounce", an instrumental co-composed five years earlier by Wright, Bobby Plater, Tiny Bradshaw and Edward Johnson, and originally popularised by the Glenn Miller and Benny Goodman bands. The piece had a second success as a song. In 1954 Feyne collaborated with Mau-

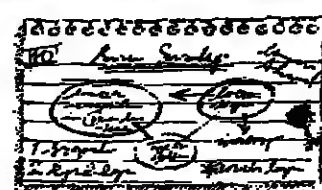
rice Shapiro on "Why". Their song (not to be confused with the 1959 ballad of that title, recorded by such artists as Frankie Avalon and Anthony Newley) gave Top Forty records to both Nat "King" Cole and Karen Chandler.

Feyne wrote more than 400 songs, his other collaborators including Milton Berle, Harry Revel, Bill Harrington, Raymond Scott, Al Sherman and Peter Tinturin.

He is survived by a son and a daughter from his second marriage, and by his third wife, the former Leatrice Ruzow, who was running his publishing company when, at the age of 82, he proposed to her. "Buddy was a sweet man, but he always had a new song on his mind," she recalls. "So I arranged for us to get married on my birthday. I figured it would give him one less big day to remember."

DICK VOSEBURGH

Bernard Feinstein (Buddy Feyne), lyricist, composer, publisher, singer; born New York 9 June 1912; three times married (one son, one daughter); died Los Angeles 10 December 1998.



PHILOSOPHICAL NOTES

MARTIN COHEN

Philosophy as a guide to political action

SHOULD GENERAL Pinochet be extradited to stand trial for crimes against humanity? Should something be done to stop the massacres by Serbian forces? But what of the question of the legalisation of drugs, or of the treatment of juvenile offenders? Should... but hang on - this isn't philosophy!

A lot of political issues seem to have philosophical roots, ethical elements. We are interested to hear the views of philosophers, of course. And, where appropriate, lawyers, policemen, even economists may be consulted - but philosophers?

It may seem rather odd now, but the Ancient Greeks saw one of the key purposes of philosophy as a guide to action, helping to answer the question "what should I do?" So often the political, legal and even economic arguments are actually old philosophical ones. The names are changed, but the issues are the same. Strip away the irrelevant, superficial characteristics, and start to analyse the structure. The answers then, surely, can be better seen.

Gottfried Leibniz thought he had developed a kind of early computer which would be capable of gobbling up difficult ethical issues, digesting them, and spitting back an answer that all would accept. "Come, let us calculate," would be the recourse of all civilised people, faced

with such as Slobodan Milosevic and Augusto Pinochet.

In the 17th century, computers were rather rudimentary, consisting of bits but no bytes, and the dream remained a dream. But now, with machines capable of analysing a thousand times more information than is relevant, of processing a million more algorithms than there are people to think up algorithms, surely now can't we begin to use good philosophical principles to mechanically solve some of our pressing problems?

Well, let's try a few. Take General Pinochet. Let the computer adopt a utilitarian approach. We do not care what Pinochet has done (or not done). Will the happiness of the relatives of his victims outweigh the distress of his supporters? Will his trial increase or decrease the likelihood of other dictators committing atrocious crimes?

What are the principles involved? That no one should be allowed to be above the international principles respecting the sanctity of life, forbidding torture, and that political expedients are wholly amoral?

Or with Slobodan Milosevic, who has successfully used international law to allow himself the right to commit the most ghastly crimes for several years - what advantages are there to respecting the sovereignty of the nation state, even when it is a terminally sick gov-

ernment devouring its own citizens, if intervention could yet lead to chaotic spread of the contagious disease?

But already it seems that however useful and impartial the calculation, the argument over the rules programmed will be just as intense and insoluble as before. The issues remain stubbornly political and emotive, not to say irrational. The philosophers can come in and airily announce, like Rousseau, that they will begin by "setting aside the facts, as they will not affect the question", but they cannot set aside the starting assumptions (the axioms and the principles). And often that is where the disagreement lies.

At least with the problem of juvenile offenders, graduating on their tiresome diet of graffiti and vandalism to car crime, burglary and violence, we are on the safe ground of being able to set our hypotheses. Let the offenders be given money for clubbing, drugs for relief, and free access to the Internet! Then see how many give up offending. Later, let others be imprisoned in their own homes, or in special cells (still, of course, with Internet links, but now only to philosophical sites). Then watch their frustration fight with grudging acceptance of the might of the law.

But for that, we do not need the computer. Nor come to think of it, the philosophers.

Martin Cohen is the editor of 'The Philosopher'

Sincere belief is insufficient defence

FRIDAY LAW REPORT

22 JANUARY 1999

Pro Sieben Media AG v Carlton UK Television Ltd and another
Court of Appeal (Lord Justice Nourse, Lord Justice Henry and Lord Justice Robert Walker)
17 December 1998

IN DECIDING whether the defence of fair dealing under section 30(1) or (2) of the Copyright Designs and Patents Act 1988 had been made out, it was not enough for the user of the material to have the sincere belief, however misguided, that he or she was criticising a work or reporting current affairs. The Court of Appeal allowed Carlton Television's appeal against a decision that it had infringed the copyright of Pro Sieben Media AG.

The plaintiff, a German television company, claimed that the defendants had infringed its copyrights by including in one of its programmes a 30-second extract from a German television programme, which had been broadcast by the plaintiff in a magazine programme called ZAFF.

The plaintiff's programme was about Mandy Allwood, who was pregnant with eight live embryos as a result of fertility treatment. The plaintiff had made an agreement with Max Clifford, Ms Allwood's public relations consultant, giving it the exclusive right to broadcast an interview with Ms Allwood in Germany.

The defendants' programme was directed at and critical of, chequebook journalism. The extract from the plaintiff's programme was shown with the name ZAFF appearing prominently in the bottom right-hand corner of the picture, and, less prominently, the plaintiff's logo, a stylised figure 7, in the top right-hand corner.

The judge decided that the defendants had failed to discharge the onus of proving that the extract had been included

in their programme for the purpose of criticism or review within section 30(1) of the Copyright Designs and Patents Act 1988, and that there had been insufficient acknowledgement.

He further concluded that the use of the extract by the defendants was not for the purpose of reporting the "minor but newsworthy event" that Max Clifford had sold an interview with Ms Allwood to German television, within section 30(2), but that if he were wrong about that, he was in no doubt that the use made of the extract was not fair in all the circumstances. The defendants appealed.

Martin Howe QC and Charlotte May (Denton Hall) for the plaintiff; Michael Silverleaf QC and Mark Vanhegan (Henry Hepworth) for the defendants.

Lord Justice Robert Walker said that the intentions and motives of the user of another's copyright material were relevant for the purposes of the defences available under section 30(1) and (2), particularly on the issue of fair dealing, so

far as it could be treated as a discrete issue.

It was not necessary, however, for the court to put itself in the shoes of the infringer of the copyright in order to decide whether the offending piece was published "for the purposes of criticism or review", and it should not give any encouragement to the notion that all that was required was for the user to have the sincere belief, however misguided, that he or she was criticising a work or reporting current affairs.

The judge had erred in principle in focusing too much on the actual purposes, intentions and motives of those involved in the planning and production of the defendants' programme, and in focusing too little on the likely impact on the audience. The programme had been made for the purpose of criticism of works of chequebook journalism in general, and in particular the then very recent treatment by the media of the story.

The use of the extract was fair dealing within section 30(1) of the Act, and the transmission of the plaintiff's logo had, in the circumstances, constituted sufficient acknowledgement. The defence under section 30(1) of the Act accordingly succeeded. Furthermore, Ms Allwood's multiple pregnancy, its progress and its eventual outcome were on any view current events of real interest to the public, and the fact that Max Clifford had sold an interview to German television, albeit of limited and ephemeral interest, was also a current event. The defence under section 30(2) would, therefore, also succeed.

KATE O'HANLON
Barrister

GAZETTE

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS

DEATHS

RYLANDS: The funeral service of George H.W. (Dad) Rylands CH CBE, Fellow of King's College, Cambridge, will be held in King's College Chapel on Monday 25 January at 3pm. No flowers, but donations may be sent to Cambridge Arts Theatre Trust, St Edward's Passage, Cambridge CB2 3PL.

Announcements for Gazette BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS (Births, Adoptions, Marriages, Deaths, Memorial services, Wedding announcements, In memoriam) are charged at £6.50 a line (VAT extra). OTHER Gazette announcements (notices, functions, forthcoming marriages, Marriages), which must be submitted in writing, are charged at £10 a line, VAT extra. Always include a daytime telephone number. The Independent's main switchboard number is 0171-293 2000.

BIRTHDAYS

Miss Mary Hayley Bell, playwright, 88; Admiral Sir Lindsay Bryson, Lord-Lieutenant for East Sussex, 74; Commander Lord Cotteloe, Lord-Lieutenant for Buckinghamshire, 72; Sir John Cotton, former diplomat, 90; Sir Charles Davis, former Counsel to the Speaker, 90; Mr George Foreman, boxer, 51; Miss Ann Goddard QC, circuit judge, 63; Miss Margaret Hall, head of design, British Museum, 63; Professor Cyril Hogarth, physicist, 75; Lord Hughes, former Minister of State for Scotland, 88; Mr John Hurt, actor, 59; Miss Piper Laurie, actress, 67; Baroness Lockwood, former president, Birkbeck College, 75; Dr Lotte Newman, former president, Royal College of General Practitioners, 70; Sir Alfred Ramsey, former football manager, 79; Mrs Claire Rayner, journalist and broadcaster, 68; Mrs Gillian Shepherd MP, 59; Miss Ann Sothra, actress, 90; Sir Michael Spicer MP,

56; Sir Hilary Talbot, former High Court judge, 87; Sir Graham Wilkins, former chairman and chief executive, Thorn EMI, 75.

ANNIVERSARIES

Births: George Gordon Byron, sixth Baron Byron, poet, 1788; August Strindberg, playwright, 1849; David Wark Griffith, silent film producer and director, 1875. Deaths: William Paterson, founder of the Bank of England, 1719; Queen Victoria, 1901; Walter Richard Sickert, painter, 1942. On this day: the Falkland Islands were ceded to Britain by Spain, 1771; Ramsay MacDonald, the first Labour prime minister, took office, 1924; the first broadcast of a football match took place (Arsenal v Sheffield United) at Highbury, London, 1927. Today is the Feast Day of St Anastasius the Persian, St Brithwald of Ramsey, St Blesilla, St Dominic of Sorra, St Vincent Pallotti and St Vincent of Saragossa.

LECTURES

National Gallery: Julia Tozer, "Entrances and Exits (iii)", 1pm. Victoria and Albert Museum: Pat Earnshaw, "Identifying Needle Laces", 2pm. Tate Gallery: Justine Hopkins, "Sex, Creativity and Reputation: Moore, Hepworth and Epstein", 1pm. British Museum: Rachel Ward, "Introducing 'Edward Falkener, a Victorian Orientalist'", 11.30am.

SYNAGOGUE SERVICES

Details of synagogue services to be held tomorrow may be obtained by telephoning the following. Sabbath begins in London at 4.17pm. United Synagogues: 0111-343 8888. Federation of Synagogues: 0151-202 2253. Union of Liberal and Progressive Synagogues: 0111-580 1883. Reform Synagogues of Great Britain: 0111-345 4731. Spanish and Portuguese Jews Congregation: 0171-259 2574. New London Synagogue (Moorfields): 0171-335 1022.

ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS

The Duke of York, Patron, visits the Royal Free Hampstead NHS Trust, London NW3. The Princess Royal opens St Julia's Hospice at St Michael's Hospital, Hayle, Cornwall; visits the Humphry Davy School, Penzance, and opens new buildings; opens the Centre for Foundation Studies at Cornwall College, Pool. Redruth: visits Philip Carr Marketing, Long Rock, Penzance; and visits Classic Cottages, Leslie House, Helston. The Duke of Kent, President, the Royal Institution of Great Britain, attends an evening discourse by Professor Susan Greenfield at the Institution, Albemarle Street, London W1.

CHANGING OF THE GUARD

The Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment mounts the Queen's Life Guard at Horse Guards, 11am.

WORDS

CHRISTOPHER HAWTREE
butter, n.

"DO YOU want butter on it?" asked the man in a Brighton sandwich-shop. "Yes, please." With which, he dug his knife into a tub of grease which I could not believe was butter. "Is that margarine?" "Yes." "But you just asked if I wanted butter." "I know," he said, knife aloft, "it's a figure of speech, isn't it?"

of the craggy edge. "Look, there's real butter, under your nose!" "It's hard, for melting in baked potatoes." "You don't put margarine in the potatoes?" "No," he replied in surprise, "you can't put margarine in potatoes." If the Mad Hatter had tendered for outside caterers, this would have been the man for the job.

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SCIENCE

Hungry for a longer life?

It is well known that rodents live longer if fed a reduced-calorie diet. If it worked for humans, would any of us prefer longevity to a cream cake? By Tom Kirkwood

If you told a farmer in a drought-stricken part of Africa that going hungry might make him live longer, the kindest reply you might receive would be a pitying shake of the head. And yet, since the mid-Thirties it has been known that feeding laboratory mice and rats the bare minimum needed for survival lengthens their lives by as much as a year.

A year may not seem much to you and me, but if your lifespan is just three years to start with, a year's extension is a lot. Recent research shows that severe calorie restriction in short-lived animals may activate a "time-out" strategy to cope with periods of hunger. Supposing it works for humans, too - something we don't know as yet - could we hack all those hungry days and nights for the sake of 30 more years of the same? But even if it doesn't - or if we can't - we can look to calorie restriction to tell us how the rate of ageing is controlled.

Under-feeding in human beings is bad news. Famine stunts growth and shortens lives. If you are a woman, hunger harms the babies you carry. It even harms the next generation if your baby is a daughter. A woman's egg supply is formed when she herself is an embryo. If a mother is starved, her daughter's fertility may be affected.

Calorie restriction, however, is not malnutrition. Described as "under-nutrition without malnutrition", calorie restriction provides essential nutrients, but with a much reduced total energy intake. In mice and rats, reducing energy intake by 30-50 per cent increases lifespan by around a third. Unsurprisingly, the calorie-restricted rodent is lighter and smaller. It also tends to shut down its fertility. But, apart from these obvious differences, calorie-restricted animals are in many respects healthier. They perform better in tests of stamina and endurance, they have reduced rates of developing cancer, and, in keeping with their longer lifespans, they appear to age more slowly. Internally, they are better at repairing damaged molecules, such as DNA and proteins attacked by free radicals.

How does calorie restriction do all this? Could it just be that it is not the calorie-restricted diet that is abnormal, but the diet that offers continuous access to an unlimited food supply? The typical laboratory rat lives all its life in the rodent equivalent of a fast-food restaurant. Alert to this criticism, researchers have shown that calorie restriction still works when the animals are compared with others fed a controlled diet, which avoids any tendency towards becoming overweight.

Another idea is that calorie restriction simply reduces metabolism, slowing the production of toxic by-products such as free radicals. This harks back to an early notion called the "rate-of-living" theory, according to which organisms with a high metabolic rate live shorter lives. This has since been shown to be false - eg birds have higher metabolic rates than mammals, yet on the whole they live longer. In fact, the metabolic rate per gram of body mass is, if anything, increased in calorie-restricted mice.

At first sight, it seems paradoxical that a mouse or a rat puts more effort into its metabolism when food is scarce, but there is a way to explain it. Animals in the wild need to cope with a variable food supply. Good times are interspersed with bad.

Hibernating animals deal with the regular lean times of winter by entering a state of torpor. An alternative, when interruptions in food supply are less predictable, is to be flexible about how energy resources are used. Making the best use of available energy is critically important in the harsh struggle for existence. In particular, an animal needs to pay special attention to how it allocates energy between maintenance and reproduction. Getting the balance right is, literally, a matter of life and death. It may explain why we age.

Some years ago, I suggested that the reason we age is that, under the imperative of natural selection, our genes evolved a strategy whereby, in effect, they treat the body, or soma, as disposable. The highest priority of the genes, from a Darwinian point of view, is to invest in offspring. Investing in a long life is of secondary importance - hence the "disposable" soma. We invest enough in maintenance to keep the body in good shape through what would have been the normal life expectancy of our ancestors - when life was nasty, brutish and short - but no more than that.

If the energy supply fluctuates unpredictably - a problem that is particularly acute for small animals with limited fat deposits - a key question is just how much should be invested in maintenance when the going gets tough. Should the animal neglect the maintenance of its soma and put all its energy into a last-ditch effort at reproduction? Or should it suspend reproduction until its prospects of successfully raising a litter are brighter? If it chooses the second option, it may even want to increase its maintenance and keep its soma in prime condition for making babies in the future.

The UK Treasury has powerful computer models to help explore the best options for deploying its fiscal budget, and it was to a computer that my colleague Daryl Shanley and I turned to investigate the best strategy for a mouse with its budget of calories. We developed, in effect, a "virtual" wild mouse. We challenged the virtual mouse with periodic bouts of "food shortage" and allowed it to evolve its optimal strategy. What we found was deeply interesting. When there was lots of food available, the virtual mouse did just what the real mouse does - it reproduced, and tuned its investment in maintenance to give a lifespan of around three years. But when the food supply fell, and the mouse could no longer manage both to maintain itself and to reproduce, it abandoned reproduction, it increased the effort it put into maintenance, and it lived longer. In other words, the computer model confirmed that the life-extending properties of calorie restriction make evolutionary sense.

No one knows whether calorie restriction works in humans, but let us suppose for a moment that it can. What would we have to do to gain our longer lives?

Mice and rats show the greatest gain when food is restricted early in life, soon after weaning. Such practice would be ill-advised in humans because it stunts growth and interferes with learning. The eating disorder anorexia nervosa, when it occurs in adolescents, delays or blocks reproductive maturation and bone development. Nevertheless, even when started only in adult animals, calorie restriction has a significant, though lesser, effect on lifespan. For



Calorie reduction may not lead to longer life, but it can tell us how the rate of ageing is controlled. Hulton Getty

humans, 18 might be a good age to begin. A reasonable target for a calorie-restricted human might be 70 per cent of the normal diet. Herein lies the obvious difficulty. A typical maintenance diet for an office worker is 2,000 calories a day for a man and 1,800 for a woman. Reducing this to just 1,400 or 1,260 calories a day is an unappealing prospect. We will need to find ways to trick our bodies into feeling satiated, even though our energy intake is so low that it would have most of us ducking into the nearest café for a hefty snack. Goodness knows, most of us eat far too much. We continue to do this -

and to eat the wrong things - even though we know full well that it is bad for us.

In spite of being hooked on what for many of us are unattainable ideals of slender bodily perfection, we are tempted by high-calorie products such as chocolate bars, cream cakes and chips. The real difficulty with going hungry is that the benefits of a healthy old age, and maybe even of some extra years of life, seem pretty remote when you are tempted by immediate gratification.

Let's not be too gloomy if we can't match up to those sleek but hungry little mice. Calorie restriction is telling us a lot about the

processes that affect the rate of ageing. No doubt, as we learn more, we will find other ways to use these insights to combat the diseases of ageing and to enhance our quality of life in old age.

Tom Kirkwood is professor of biological gerontology at Manchester University. His latest book, *'Time of Our Lives'*, is published by Weidenfeld & Nicolson, price £20. He will be giving the keynote speech at an ICA forum on Science, Ageing and Immortality, on 4 February at 7.30pm, at the Royal Institution, London (0171-930 3647).

UPDATE

HUMAN EMBRYONIC stem cells are not covered by the United States's ban on state funding for human embryo research, the US National Institutes of Health has declared. The legal opinion, issued earlier this week, is an important milestone for US scientists aiming to investigate the possible benefits of stem cells, for example to grow new organs for adults. The ban defines an embryo as an "organism" - which stem cells, being individual elements, are not, the NIH declared.

DOLLY THE sheep was the success; but many attempts to clone animals or produce them by in-vitro fertilisation (IVF) have resulted in very large foetuses which did not survive in the womb. Now, teams in the US and Scotland have found that levels of IGF-2, a protein which promotes growth, were much higher in the livers of cow foetuses produced by IVF rather than artificial insemination. "It suggests that the IVF procedure somehow reprograms the IGF-2 gene," Patrick Blondin of North Carolina State University told *New Scientist* magazine.

UNDERGROUND volcanic activity on ancient Mars sculpted gorges far larger than the Grand Canyon in the United States, and melted enough water to create floods of biblical proportions, according to two British geologists.

Dan McKenzie and Francis Nimmo at Cambridge University suggest that huge wedges of molten rock - known as dikes - stretched the surface, and also melted vast amounts of ice, causing colossal floods thought to have scoured Mars's surface between two and three billion years ago.

The theory, put forward in *Nature*, suggests that some water could have been trapped underground to provide the sort of warm, moist oases where other scientists have suggested that life could have survived.

SETI, THE Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence, has begun looking for visible signs of alien life. Previously, groups working for SETI have relied on listening for radio messages - often in the so-called "hydrogen band" at microwave frequencies. But the new initiative at the University of California, Berkeley, and the Smithsonian Observatory in Cambridge, Massachusetts, will use optical telescopes. One will look for short pulses of light, as brief as a billionth of a second, from nearby stars while the other will look for steady, extremely narrow band laser pulses, or single-colour light signals. CHARLES ARTHUR

TECHNOQUEST

Q: Who invented the rubber band?
According to *Harwin Chronology on Inventions, Innovations and Discoveries* by Kevin Desmond (1987), it was Stephen Perry of Messrs Perry and Co, Rubber Co Manufacturers, London, from vulcanised rubber.

Q: How do you determine the sex of a tarantula?
When tarantulas are young they all look like females, but as they get older their sex becomes more obvious. Adult males have hooks on their front legs and their stomachs are smaller than females'. Also, the males' "pedipalps" (the fleshy bits that stick out of the head) are shaped like clubs. However, it may take 10 months, or about seven years, for these differences to become obvious.

Q: Why is Madame Curie so famous? What did she do?
Marie Curie is often portrayed as a sort of scientific saint - the Florence Nightingale of physics. In reality, like Florence she was as tough as old boots and an able administrator. She was a left-wing socialist who at one point was involved in a terrific scandal: she was accused of breaking up another

physicist's marriage, which eventually led to a duel. (Not involving her, though.)

Marya Skłodowska, as she was originally called, was the daughter of a Polish science teacher. She went to study physics and chemistry in Paris, where she married a physics professor, Pierre Curie. In 1897 Marie decided to study radioactivity for her doctorate. She began by working through all the elements then known, and found that uranium and thorium were radioactive. She then tried minerals and discovered that uranium ore (pitchblende) was far more radioactive than it should be for the uranium that it contained.

Marie suggested that the ore contained an unknown, but highly radioactive, element in such a small concentration as to be invisible. Having little money, she and Pierre were forced to work in an old shed that had been a mortuary. It took them four years to extract a tiny quantity of radium from several tonnes of ore. They took very few precautions against the radiation, and even today Marie Curie's notebooks are still too radioactive to handle.

She received two Nobel prizes for her work on radioactivity before she died of

leukaemia at the age of 67. Continuing the family tradition, one of the couple's daughters, Irene, and her husband discovered how to make things radioactive using neutrons. They also received a Nobel prize.

Q: How many stars are there in a constellation?
The number varies a lot. They are counted by measuring the number of stars that can be seen in an area of the sky. The Southern Cross has lots of stars - 19.6 per 100 square degrees of sky. Most others have between five and six per 100 degrees. An easier way is to count the number of bright stars.

In the northern hemisphere, Centaurus has 18 bright stars. Canis Minor has only two.

Q: How heavy is the Earth's atmosphere?
Assuming the Earth to be a perfectly flat sphere with an air pressure of 9.65 x 10⁴ newtons per square metre (14 pounds per square inch) all over its surface, the atmosphere weighs 4.9 x 10¹⁸ newtons (a mass of about 5 million billion tonnes).

You can visit the Technoquest World Wide Web site at <http://www.science.org.uk>

THE TRUTH ABOUT...

PLUTO

WHEN IS a planet not a planet, but just a lump of rock with a predictable orbit? That question is weighing on the minds of two groups at the International Astronomical Union (IAU), who are considering whether our solar system has nine planets, or just eight.

The object of their musing is Pluto, usually the farthest planet from the Sun (though this year, for the first time this decade, its elliptical orbit passes inside that of Neptune). Discovered in 1930, almost 100 years after Neptune, Pluto takes 248 years to orbit the Sun and has a diameter of just 2,300km (1,440 miles), less than that of our own Moon. Its mass is just 0.2 per cent of that of the Earth, though it can boast its own moon, Charon, with a diameter of 1,270km.

But the IAU thinks that is not sufficient to merit inclusion with a grouping that ranges up to the huge Jupiter, 318 times the mass of Earth. Instead they are thinking of either reclassifying Pluto as a "minor planet", or lumping it in with an entirely new class of objects.

The underlying problem is that nobody has ever defined what a planet really is.



Pluto may be classified as a minor planet. Science Photo Library

elliptical than ours, and is inclined to the plane of the other eight planets by 17 degrees.

Even Patrick Moore, the respected astronomer, comments in his book *Mission to the Planets* that: "Altogether, Pluto is a maverick, and there are grounds for doubting whether it is worthy of true satellite status." Towards the end of the

book, he says: "Pluto cannot be classed as a bona fide planet."

Many astronomers think that rather than being made from material that gathered at the centre of the solar system about 6 billion years ago - as the "proper" planets did - Pluto is a comet that was captured from a far more distant group of bodies called the Kuiper Belt. That

belt is thought to be the source of the comets that occasionally dive into the centre of the solar system, past the Sun.

Hence the IAU's unease. "For at least 20 years, it's been obvious that Pluto doesn't fit," says Mike A'Hearn, an astronomer at the University of Maryland, who heads the Planetary Systems Sciences Division of the IAU.

Dr A'Hearn wants to create a new class of objects for ice-balls that orbit beyond Neptune, and call them Trans-Neptunian Objects. Pluto would then be Trans-Neptunian Object No 1.

Brian Marsden, of the IAU's Minor Planet Centre, says he has a better idea. He'd like to see Pluto classed as a "minor planet," of which there are thousands, then made to take a number. The prized number 10,000 will probably come up next month. And, Professor Marsden says, it would not be a demotion for Pluto to be referred to as the 10,000th minor planet: "It's an honour," he insists.

But to Alan Hale, one of the astronomers to discover Comet Hale-Bopp, the whole debate is rather silly. "A hypothetical resident of Jupiter would probably laugh at our calling Earth a 'major planet,'" he points out.

CHARLES ARTHUR

Nicely brought up but badly behaved

In the classic Decadent text of the late 19th century that was to influence Oscar Wilde's *The Picture of Dorian Gray*, the anti-hero of JK Huysmans' *Against Nature*, the Comte des Esseintes, retires to a Parisian suburban villa to indulge his taste for exquisite objects. His epicene pursuit reaches its apogee when he decides to have the shell of a tortoise embossed with jewels, carefully chosen so as to make a perfect aesthetic complement to his Persian rug as the creature crawls around the house. However, it refuses to move; and the comte realises that his pet has perished, overwrought by the weight of gems on its back.

As we crawl through our own *fin de siècle*, weighed down by worries about the Millennium Bug, would anyone dare to replicate the comte's gesture? Perhaps. Louise Taylor, co-curator of the *Decadence* show that opens this week at the Crafts Council, quotes one of the exhibiting artists, Grayson Perry: 'Decadence in our age is not just a matter of bejewelled tortoiseshells and Venus flytraps, more an epidemic of hype, the cult of celebrity, 60-channel TV and worn-out irony.' It is an opinion borne out on Perry's pair of classic urns, apparently prettily decorated in gold, which on closer inspection are seen to feature sordid scenes of mayhem and murder.

Grayson Perry was among "50 or 60" artists contacted by the show's curators. They were asked "Does decadence exist now, and what does it mean to you?" The result is the *fin-de-siècle* cabinet of curiosities to be found here. Significantly, the show has been designed by Simon Costin, famous for his dead-animal jewellery in the Eighties. Costin's high fashion/art profile gives a glamorous if not dangerous edge to the display - he wanted to have the signs written in human blood, but was overruled by the Crafts Council on grounds of safety. The result is nonetheless impressive: a sepulchral interior of neo-classical black-velvet drapes latched by disembodied gilded hands - the sort of place a decadent's body might lie in state.

So are the contents lying in state, last gasp of de luxe one-offs in the age of increasing minimal utilitarianism? Mary Shoester, who, along with her co-curators Philip Hughes and Louise Taylor, has refined the show's intellectual approach, defines her aim of *Decadence*: "At the end of every century, culture becomes beset by where it's been and where it's going. Where is the happiness in life?" This worrying anxiety has an obverse side: a retreat to luxury. For Taylor, *Decadence* is about "redefining luxury... it's not

sequins, but cashmere"; the exquisite, the hand-made, the unique.

This show could furnish an entire apartment for a modern-day Comte des Esseintes: from Neil Wilkin's steel-and-crystal chandelier to Carl Hahn's rustic Gothic chair made for a young girl, "nicely brought up but badly behaved"; from Kai Ito's bleach-splattered linen housecoat, to the Timorous Beasties' screen-prints of thistles and vine-entangled fish that resemble a William Morris for the 21st century.

You'd have to take out a second mortgage to be able to afford John Makepeace's *Fifteen*, a chest of drawers assembled from burl elm and wild cherry, its every joint and edge so rounded or mirrored as to become a sensual object in its own right. But your breath must be reserved for the back room where,

You thought the 1890s
were the very last word in
decadence, but our own
fin-de-siècle is doing pretty
well, too - going out in a
flurry of disembodied hands,
necklaces made of mock
Viagra tablets, 60-channel
television and an epidemic
of hype. By Philip Hoare

Clockwise from
bottom: Classic urn
by Grayson Perry;
'Icarus' by Andrew
Logan; chest by
John Makepeace

hanging from the ceiling and dispensing reflected shards of light on to the other exhibits like a decadent benediction, is Andrew Logan's *Icarus* - the falling would-be angel with his wax wings, here reoriented in mirror and stained glass, curving around him as he tips out of kilter.

Perhaps the pieces that best fit the purist's conception of decadence's deathly symbolism are David Hensel's jewellery. *One Day Off* is a necklace, fashioned from flame-like huffs of red silk and mock Viagra tablets (the 1963 Drug Act precluded the artist and the gallery from using the real thing); another choker, *Millstone*, aims an inert bullet at the wearer's jugular. A

neck-piece made of mammoth ivory and fine gold wire displays key words - "violence", "venom", "guilt". And most extraordinary of all is a garrotte in red silk, which recalls the red ribbons worn around the necks of French Revolutionaries.

Hensel's work "is designed to encourage extravagant behaviour... I feel decadence is a natural cultural phase, that indulgence in opulence, an amassing of high-quality decorative art, is always the decadence of the Patron, over the artist".

In a culture where time is the most precious commodity, ooties

Shoester, to lavish time on self. Her favourite piece is Ingeborg Bratman's 12-ft-long necklace of Mabe pearls from the South Seas.

Decadence undoubtedly seeks to capitalise on a Zeitgeist. We live in an irony-ridden culture in which art has become almost an idea in itself, where Elton John can employ two people to arrange the 2,000 fresh flowers he orders for his London homes each week; where cocaine is the new opium of the masses (a truly decadent piece for the show's curators to have commissioned

might have been a coke-sniffing straw and mirror). Yet there is a sense in which decadence, as a continuing strand from successive *fin de siècle*, is a precursor to regeneration. She sees the show as having "the ambience of an 18th-century salon"; visitors are encouraged to sit on Carl Hahn's chair, to touch Neil Wilkin's chandelier. And, if they are in a truly des Esseintes frame of mind, they can buy it all, too.

Decadence is on at the Crafts Council Gallery, 44a Pentonville Road, London N1 9EZ, 0171-278 7700, from 21 January to 14 March. Philip Hoare's *Wilde's Last Stand: Decadence, Conspiracy & the First World War*, is published by Duckworth, price £11.95

Stowing the seeds of life

If the Earth dries out, how will we be able to make the desert bloom once more?
The answer lies five metres below the Sussex Weald. By Nonie Niesewand

Boffins at Kew have plans to save the world in the next century when the world turns into one big desert. Deep underground, beneath their new laboratories at Wakehurst in Sussex, opening next year, a seed bank stores 25,000 species from arid regions. By the year 2010, if the worst happens, they can forest the Sahara with prickly juniper, bring unknowns back to Somalia, and el baobab trees all around the *impopo* river in Africa.

Forget the rainforest - the scientists at Kew have, because they realise that only the politicians can save it. Logging is a political agenda, not a botanical one. But in the dried out, desolate areas of Australia, Africa, India, Mexico and Brazil - where the rainfall is less than 600mm a year - people eke out a living on dusty soil so eroded that it blows away in the wind. One fifth of the world population lives in these arid regions.

Botanists estimate that one in eight plants every year are becoming extinct, leaving our planet forever. Scientists at the Royal Botanical Gardens of Kew got the Millennium Commission to give

them a £30m Lottery handout, matched by donor-funding to a total project cost of £50m, to make a seed collection and a cluster of laboratories to house it. "It's costing as much as Chelsea FC would pay for a decent forward line, but will last a lot longer," says Roger Smith, project director at Kew.

Seeds are immediately X-rayed for insects that could destroy the whole collection. Once dried, the seeds are stored in an icy chamber at minus 20C. Every 10 years, some of them are germinated to check the batch hasn't passed its sell-by date. Designated a site of outstanding natural beauty and special scientific interest, the sloping spur of the Weald at Wakehurst is tricky. Any new building had to be "at once imperceptible but when perceived, of peerless quality", according to the planners. So Stanton Williams, the architects, placed the seed storage vaults five metres underground with the laboratories, greenhouses and a visitor centre on top.

To explain their elevations, the architects hand out a photograph of a long seed-pod. Pragmatic as well as poetic, the architects took their inspiration from a bean pod, swelling protectively around 10 hard-shelled

seeds, creating 12 barrel-vaulted buildings, each measuring 14.4m by 7.2m. Above the deep freeze, these single-storey vaulted labs cluster around the gardens in which pink drifts of sea-thrift thrive. Glazed at both ends, and facing east-west, they get maximum sunlight.

To get Lottery money from the Millennium Commission, Kew had to make their new outstation at Wakehurst accessible to the public. In a winter garden which doesn't really live up to its name, since nothing much will grow there, an educational display introduces plants in their natural habitat.

When the new laboratories open in 2001, you will be able to come right into the core and, through the windows, watch the scientists at work ("which is about as exciting as watching paint dry," Roger Smith says disarmingly). The aim is to demystify the men in white coats, as well as let them work in a controlled environment.

"It simply says, here we are, this is what we do, and explains it to the visitor who can interpret it as they will. Wakehurst estate is all about private discovery, and the new building is in the same spirit," Smith says.

The most powerful reason to

bank seeds, he believes, is their potential use in medicine. Members of the Women's Institute collect yew clippings because it is used clinically in a cancer drug called Taxol. The chemotherapy for childhood leukaemia, Vinblastin, is made from periwinkle plants.

Paul Williams of Stanton Williams believes that this is the first Lottery-funded project that is really meaningful. It's not just an excuse for a new building which everyone theod wonders how to fill. "We've produced an environment which holds on to the DNA of plants and grafts it back again," he says.

Rooms for research and contemplation cloistered rhythmically about a courtyard planted with clipped Dutch elms are reminiscent of Le Corbusier's La Tourette monastery, where natural light streaming through coloured light wells, into the dim chapel, make one doubt Le Corbusier's avowed agnosticism.

Stanton and Williams took their practice to La Tourette in France for a week's retreat. "Did you know that Le Corbusier designed every space to mirror the proportions of those 100 cell-like rooms? So the chapel is exactly 100 times bigger in volume



The pod-style seed banks at Wakehurst in Sussex

Glynn Griffiths

than the 100 rooms. As you move about, you carry with you that imperceptible sense of personal space. It's an incredible experience," Paul Williams says.

At Chelsea Physic Gardens last Wednesday, Paul Williams and Roger Smith gave a joint lecture entitled "Architecture, Science and Spirituality". Not on religious grounds - although, it has to be said, there is something proselytising about the plight of our planet - but to capture the new age.

Few establishments have the credibility to embark upon such a

mammoth global quest. "We draw upon our links, not in the old spirit of the Empire when Victorians took away cuttings in their sponge bags, but with the cooperation of many countries responsible for their own actions."

"First we ask, 'Do you want to play?' then: 'Are you mandated?' With their informed consent, we begin seed-collection."

So what happens if global warming makes *Waterworld* the reality, rather than seas of sand? What use desert palms and thorn scrub then? Roger Smith is sanguine. "I'm not

Nostradamus and we can't solve all the world's problems.

"But I know that when I'm an old man sitting on Hove seafloor, tucked up beneath a warm tartan blanket, I'll be glad we did something to shore up our heritage. Otherwise we have nothing to leave our children's children."

Sir David Attenborough, who is a trustee of the Royal Botanical Gardens at Kew in west London, writes a fitting epitaph for the project: "Without plants, there would be no animals, no human beings - no life on this earth."

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Greenaway in Edinburgh: 'I really do believe that the history of cinema has no comparison with the history of art'

Colin McPherson

Every picture tells a movie

Peter Greenaway says cinema is dead. The fun's all going on elsewhere, and he's going to prove it. By Elisabeth Mahoney

At Edinburgh College of Art last week, Peter Greenaway greeted a packed lecture theatre with two provocations. "Contemporary cinema," he began in his customary delivery, all precise enunciation and rather pleased with what he's about to say, "is extremely boring, moribund, dead." The smarty-pants in the audience tittered, the scholars nodded, the rest of the audience - for whom Greenaway is one of the leading lights of contemporary cinema - looked a bit confused. "Bill Viola," he continued, now on a roll, "is 10 times more exciting than Scorsese." Less titers and confusion this time, and more nods, as the crowd settled down for what was to be a talk rather like the films he makes: controversial, deeply funny in places, a dazzling display of eccentric intelligence. And, let's not forget, a bit weird.

He kept saying, "I don't know whether you ever saw a film called..." when referring to his own films, he told us that we would be celebrating the Millennium either six years too early or four years too late and, declaring he felt rather constrained by the standard two-hour film format, talked about his new project, which will consist of just the four feature films, a 16-part television series, four or five CD-Roms and a website. Well, what did you really expect from the man who brought us *The Baby of Mâcon*?

What you might not expect from him, though, is an exhibition of fine art. But this is what had brought him to Edinburgh, the opening of "Peter Greenaway: Artworks 63-98", a retrospective of work produced, unbeknown to much of his cinema audience, during his 35-year career as a film-maker. While it may come as no surprise that Greenaway's training was in fine art, given the visual complexity and experimentation of his films, it's something of a shock to discover that as well as making 49 films and videos over the years, including his best-known works *The Draughtsman's Contract* (1982) and *The Cook, the Thief, His Wife and Her Lover* (1989), Greenaway has produced a huge body of paintings, collages, photographs and installations. The work on show is but a tiny fraction of it.

On the day the exhibition opened, Edinburgh was in a bit of a Greenaway frenzy. The free tickets for his talk had all been snapped up well in advance, while the private view at the University's Talbot Rice Gallery was packed to the gills. "Which one is he?" I was asked an improbable number of times. And if the experience of Cornerhouse in Manchester, where the exhibition originated, is anything to go by, the gallery can expect brisk business. Doubling the usual number of visitors for its exhibitions, the Greenaway show also sold 700 rather than the customary 150 exhibition catalogues.

Unsurprisingly, given the reason for his visit, Greenaway did his best to be seen as a visual artist who paints, makes films, curates exhibitions, stages operas and writes books, rather than as a film-maker who paints. Rather perversely, this involved turning his back on the medium for which he's best known. Whatever question I put to him, more profound and entertaining than anything cinema has produced so far.

"I'm very pessimistic now about cinema. There are no interesting film-makers anymore. They have all gone to the new media." And it's tricky to ask Greenaway about the relationship between the films that we love (or loathe) him for and his paintings, as he refuses to admit any distinction between them. He relishes recounting a story about another journalist who suggested that they "leave the films aside for a minute and concentrate on the art" and, when someone tells him that

'I'm very pessimistic now about cinema. There are no interesting film-makers anymore'

it was back to this theme. Why, for example, did he turn to a career in film after graduating from Walthamstow School of Art? "Cinema gave me the opportunity not just to deal with the imagery but with text as well, but I've somehow always felt that my moving into cinema would only be temporary... I really do believe that the history of cinema has no comparison with the history of art. We have had 2,000 years of image-making in terms of painting, which has produced thousands of different ideas

scenes from his films look like works of art, he has trouble containing his glee. "See, you've fallen into the trap!"

So I ask one of the exhibition curators instead. Alan Woods goes along with Greenaway's no-boundaries-between-different-media position. "The more you get into what he does, the more one film hits another film, a film hits a painting. He might have an idea for a film from a painting or maybe a film gets made and then it becomes a painting afterwards. So *Drown-*

ing By Numbers existed as a set of ideas before in *The Falls* [a series of collages from the late Seventies], then later as a book, *The Fear of Drowning*, some of which led back to *The Falls*. There's a genuine interrelation here and some consistent ideas you can follow through."

MICHAEL CHURCH

'Only Arthur Miller strikes a false note, the old windbag...'

PAGE 14

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- ENTERTAINMENT WEEKLY MAG.

When you'd really rather not know

THERE'S AN early conversation between Matt and his work-partner Rachel about whether it is desirable to know everything about someone or whether some mystery is preferable. The problem I have had with the previous plays in Brad Fraser's trilogy is that the audience knows only too immediately everything about his characters and that the comic-book influences that give them so much of their frame-filling extravagance also simplify them.

Matt and Rachel are in fact successful comic-book artists

THEATRE
MARTIN YESTERDAY
ROYAL EXCHANGE
MANCHESTER

and their early hip wisecracking seems to promise more caricature. Matt, the likeable young married man who discovered he was gay in *Poor Superman*, seems to have flicked into an entirely new persona. But in Ben Daniels' strong performance he is still engaging and touchingly nervous as he begins a promising relationship with Martin.

Martin Yesterday (Ian Gelder) is an openly gay local politician tirelessly committed to making Toronto a more humane and decent place to live. For a while, Matt's creativity and Martin's gravely appear an open and mature alliance as they share knowledge of Martin's HIV and Matt's incipient depression.

But you cannot know everything about someone, and as more and more emerges about two of his ex-lovers, now his housemates, Martin's character complicates. Nor is it easy to get a fix on these two: the knowing Québécois Yves (Nathan Willock), and the out-of-his-face kid Rex, played by Daniel Roberts. But as Martin's personality first draws doubts and then darkness, so Matt reveals more of his own self-centred ruthlessness and disdain for "losers" among whom even Rachel (Ruth Lasse) comes to be counted. Here is the complexity of characterisation I missed in Fraser's earlier work.

Fraser's argument is that it is the distortions of relationships caused by the pressures of straight society on "sick" gays, and the real sickness of AIDS, that so confuse Matt and Martin and bring such destructive frustration.

Marianne Elliott directs the impassioned exchanges with clarity and force and is supported by a design team which ensures that the dance-club settings work as a metaphor for the whole urgent action.

JEFFREY WAINWRIGHT

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THIS WEEK'S ALBUM RELEASES

REVIEWED BY ANDY GILL



BONNIE PRINCE BILLY
I See A Darkness
Domino

WILL OLDHAM'S whimsical penchant for changing his name with each successive release (*Palace Brothers*, *Palace Music*, *Palace*, even *Will Oldham*) has already resulted in the Belfast leg of his tour being cancelled, no local promoter having the courage—or the suicidal stupidity—to advertise a show by Bonnie Prince Billy.

You have to say it's their loss: *I See A Darkness* is Oldham's most beguiling release yet, a marvellous album which endows his characteristic melancholy with an uplifting, epiphanic grace.

Oldham's compositions are exquisitely wrought pieces whose manner is always in perfect accord with their form—which here shines more than ever towards traditional folksong. "A Minor Place" has the comely quality of rhymes that have been around forever and a day. And though "No-madic Revery (All Around)" builds to a

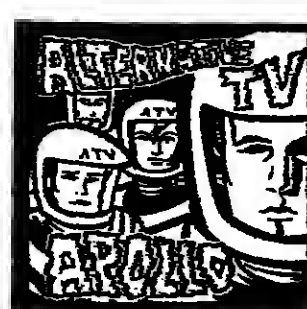
rousing, storm-tossed, gospel-shanty climax suggestive of derangement, the peculiar, convoluted shifts of tense in Oldham's verses have clearly been crafted like complex marionettes, syllables and shades of meaning slotting seamlessly together beneath the surface commotion.

The album's real power, however, lies in the way Oldham makes it all seem so natural, the way his frail, fleeting delivery and weatherbeaten arrangements add a convincing patina of antiquity to these songs. They're not the musical equivalent of reprobate furniture, nor do they sound like retouched roots-music exercises—they really do have the authentic feel of songs that have been smoothed to perfection over centuries, like well-whittled sticks, or folk memories passed on at a mother's breast. The first essential album of the year.



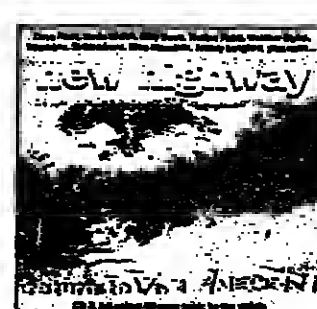
BLACK STAR LINER
Bengali Bantam Youth Experience!
WEA

THE ANGLO-ASIAN music explosion continues apace, with the pioneering rap and indie work of Apache Indian, Fun-Da-Mental and Cornershop succeeded by the cosmopolitan sound experiments of the Outcaste crew, Asian Dub Foundation and Black Star Liner—whose second album is a hugely enjoyable set of infectious trance-rock. The hypnotic chatter of the grooves is intriguingly detailed with sonic bric-à-brac—twists of star strings, hums, twangs and sabre-clash percussion. The band derives most of its idiosyncratic character, however, from the Indian- Trinidadian vocalist Choque Hossein, whose declaratory, toasting style is in the tradition of Bob Dylan and Beethoven and Big Youth: loud and enigmatic and often funny too. When Choque rears up his engine in "Low BMW", he all but becomes the car: "heyyy... boom, boom, boom, boom, boom, boom, brrrrrr! BMW, double double boom!"—with a demented dignity that's quite, quite mad, and quite perfect: a hit, a palpable hit.



ALTERNATIVE TV
Apollonia
Overground

THIS LATEST offering from the punk fanzine pioneer Mark Perry finds him still effectively—albeit ineffectually—fighting the battles of yesteryear: tracks such as "Oh Shit, We Fell From Grace" and "Communication Failure" are slabs of sullen drone-rock over which Perry intones glum, misanthropic diatribes about hopes betrayed and youthful delusions dashed. "The spark went out the lads gave in", he notes in the latter, which places him in exactly the same position he was some 30 years ago. The "dirty realism" that marked ATV's debut flex-disc "Love Lies Limp", meanwhile, has decayed into tawdry, not-quite-porno-graphic details. Musically, ATV are moving towards a more loops'n'beats oriented sound, though there are still remnants of the Fall-style riffs of yore—but the album's best prose art grind, "Just a Memory", is thrown away at the tail end of the album. Still, in these obsequious, consumer-friendly times it's good to find something with the authentic, pissy tang of welfare anomie.



VARIOUS ARTISTS
New Highway
Abakos/Direct

THIS COMPILATION of American neo-roots music follows in the dusty footsteps of last year's *Loose and Vivo Americana* anthologies, but suffers from diminishing returns; this may be the most fertile strain of American rock, but there's clearly a limit on quality. The album takes its title from Dave Alvin's modern hobo blues, but too many artists either veer off down the wrong highway (the prog-rock self-regard of Neal Casal's "Twilight of the Floods"), or settle for routine covers of old folk-rock chestnuts such as "Whiskey in the Jar" and "Washed My Hands in Muddy Waters". But there's compensation in the rough, rodeo exhilaration of Slobberbone's "Engine Joe", a tale of a natural mechanic reduced to flipping burgers, and Nadine's "Closer", plumbing the deeper, darker environs of sadcore. Cajun influences creep in with Billy Swan's rollicking version of "Mystery Train" and the loneliness of the long-distance performer is best evoked by Kevin Welch's "5 Million 1 Thousand Miles", a lived-in voice conveying a life that's barely living at all.

Superb vixen

LIVE
GARBAGE
WEMBLEY ARENA
LONDON

GARBAGE ARE the thinking man's Republica. Both bands oscillate between Britpop, rock and grunge and are headed by commanding female vocalists with a penchant for controversy. But where Republica's frat-house rock is of fleeting interest, Garbage's more robust sound has a depth that has earned them respect and longevity.

Sadly, the vigour found on their recorded material struggled to translate live as Shirley Manson's vocals were lost in the echoing acoustics of Wembley Arena. The introduction of a percussion section, sporadic techno rhythms and over-exuberant lighting served only to highlight the band's frailties. In the end it was up to Manson's trademark magnetism to bring the show to life.

Manson is best in dominatrix mode. As she stomped up and down pointing at the boys in the front row and en-treating them to bow down before her, she was the epitome of the Nineties femme fatale: strong, sexy and mouthy.

But it seemed that this fiery redhead has grown tired of this persona. Despite her killy confident demeanour, Manson displayed a darker side fuelled by paranoia. Over and over again she referred to how her band has been insulted by critics, crying: "Why do I feel that the world conspires against me?" The words "freak" and "ugly" re-curred as she remembered her teens. Manson also seemed ill at ease with her audience—on one occasion, as she changed instruments, a hush fell across the auditorium which was suddenly broken as she belted, "why are you quiet? What's wrong with you?"

A guest appearance from Chrissie Hynde put a merciful end to her whingeing. Manson returned to her supervisory ways, swishing her ponytail like a petulant teenager and spitting out the words as if she had a mouthful of grit.

The pair of them performed a rabble-rousing duet of "Only Happy When It Rains", and the crowd roared. At the end Manson dropped to her knees in reverence, declaring Hynde "the real deal". This was the kind of spectacle that befits an arena show.

The real deal indeed.

FIONA STURGES
A version of this review appeared in later editions of yesterday's paper

They came, they saw, they missed the boat

SEBADOH DO two things early on in their set. First, they cement a reputation for being as sweet as they are spiteful by swearing at a heckler and then apologising. Secondly, after much fumbling and tuning up—don't they have roadies?—they start their first song about 10 minutes after ambling on stage. There goes the claim that they've got their act together.

Sebadoh never change, and it's galling not least because the other

LIVE
NME PREMIER GIGS:
SEBADOH, ELLIOTT SMITH,
HEFNER, QUASI
THE ASTORIA
LONDON

three bands on the first of the NME Premier Gigs are not to something. Elliott Smith's backing band, Quasi, play their hustling garage pop with grinning boohoo. Then

drummer Janet Weiss starts bashing away with the same generous hostility she brings to her other band, Sleater-Kinney. Singer-keyboard player Sam Coomes chips in by squeezing some infernal noises from his tatty organ, and their breezy pop gets turned inside out by something nicely irascible.

Three-chord pop needs Hefner grab the mallet quickly. With singer Darren Hayman's lecherous librarian pose matched by unapolo-

getic guitar abuse and nasal screeching, their tirades against ex-lovers sound as tart as ever.

Elliott Smith shows his rough side, too. "Bottle Up and Explode!" Smith sings, and if he hadn't played it so cool at least one person might have done. Apparently, Smith hates being around "winners". He must like Sebadoh, then. Famously, Sebadoh miss their boat every time. They mess up gigs and ponder near-miss relationships in their

lyrics. They missed a potentially career-breaking tour with Nirvana, for obvious reasons. So much for man-man Lou Barlow's bite, remember how he formed Sebadoh as revenge against ex-Dinosaur Jr bandmate J Mascis, or how he satirised indie music in 1992's blazing "Gimme Indie Rock?"

True, their seventh album, *The Sebadoh*, is their most consistent. New single "Flame" is a looping and bum-wiggling bop infused with

samples and a hint of Northern Soul. It's a slight departure for them, while "Love is Stronger" is one of Barlow's gentlest probes at love's mess. Live, though, the rich mix of crunchy post-grunge, warm balladry, and soft, folksy pop becomes a string of between-song fumbblings and a sound like sludge.

When they finally pull the rug out from under you with the awesome "Beauty of the Ride", it's too late.

KEVIN HARLEY

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Vita & Virginia
11 Apr - 15 May
by Elyse Gilman
Maria Aitken directs
Emma
28 May - 19 Jun
new Jane Austen adaptation
Passport to Danger
25 Jun - 10 Jul
Improv Comedy
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6 february - 6 march
Blues Brothers
by Kwame Kwasi-Ansah

18 march - 10 april
Arthur Miller's The Price
by Elyse Gilman
Maria Aitken directs

17 april - 15 may
Tons of Money
adapted by Alan Ayckbourn

20 may - 12 june
UP 'N' UNDER
by John Godber

Exhibitions

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For further Entertainment Advertising please see The Information on Saturday.

To advertise in this section please call the Entertainment Team on

KILBURN
THE TRICKY CINEMA (0171-328 1000) • Kilburn The Fountainhead The 3pm Little Voice 6.30pm, 8.45pm (+ Short: Kings of Siam with 8.45pm performance only)

KINGSTON
ABC OPTIONS (0870-9020409) BR: Kingston Enemy of the State 2.25pm, 5.15pm, 8.05pm Meet Joe Black 2.15pm, 7.15pm Psycho 8.25pm Star Trek: Insurrection 2.15pm, 6.05pm

MUSWELL HILL
ODEON (08705 050007) • Highgate Enemy of the State 3.45pm, 8.30pm Meet Joe Black 12.40pm, 4.10pm, 7.10pm, 9.40pm The Siege 1.10pm, 3.50pm, 6.15pm, 8.40pm Star Trek: Insurrection 1.35pm, 6.20pm

PECKHAM
PREMIER (0181-235 3006) BR: Peckham Rye Enemy of the State 3.40pm, 6.20pm, 9pm Little Voice 5.05pm, 7.10pm, 9.15pm Meet Joe Black 4.55pm, 8.30pm My Name Is Joe 7.05pm, 9.25pm Rush Hour 9.10pm The Siege 4.20pm, 6.50pm, 9.20pm Star Trek: Insurrection 1pm, 5pm

PURLEY
ABC (0870-9020407) BR: Purley Meet Joe Black 7.10pm The Siege 5.10pm, 8.10pm Star Trek: Insurrection 6.10pm, 8.30pm

PUTNEY
ABC (0870 9020401) • Putney Bridge BR: Putney Enemy of the State 6pm, 9pm Little Voice 1.15pm, 3.45pm, 6.15pm, 8.30pm Meet Joe Black 1pm, 4.45pm, 8.30pm Star Trek: Insurrection 1pm, 3.30pm

RICHMOND
ODEON (08705 050007) BR/• Richmond Little Voice 2pm, 4.20pm, 7pm, 9.30pm Meet Joe Black 12.20pm, 4.30pm, 8.20pm The Siege 12.40pm, 3.20pm, 6.20pm, 9.10pm

ODEON STUDIO (08705 050007)
BR/• Richmond Enemy of the State 3pm, 5pm, 7.30pm, 9.40pm The Siege 2.40pm, 5.40pm, 8.40pm The Prince of Egypt 2.10pm, 4.20pm, 6.30pm, 8.20pm Star Trek: Insurrection 1.30pm, 4pm, 6.50pm, 9.30pm

ROMFORD
ABC (0870-9020419) BR: Romford Enemy of the State 3.10pm, 5.45pm, 8.30pm The Land Girls 6.30pm Little Voice 1.30pm, 4pm, 6.15pm, 8.40pm The Mask of Zorro 2.30pm, 5.55pm, 8.25pm Star Trek: Insurrection 2.15pm, 5.40pm

ODEON LIBERTY 2 (08705 050007)
BR: Romford Enemy of the State 12.30pm, 3.10pm, 5.45pm, 8.30pm The Land Girls 6.30pm Little Voice 1.30pm, 4pm, 6.15pm, 8.40pm The Mask of Zorro 2.30pm, 5.55pm, 8.25pm Star Trek: Insurrection 2.15pm, 5.40pm

SIDCUP
ABC (0541-555131) BR: Sidcup Brassed Off 11.30am, 3.30pm, 6.30pm Meet Joe Black 3.15pm, 7.15pm Psycho 8.30pm Star Trek: Insurrection 6pm

STAPLES CORNER
VIRGIN (0870-907071) BR: Crickwood Enemy of the State 3pm, 5.05pm, 8.45pm Little Voice 2.10pm, 4.25pm, 6.50pm, 9.15pm Meet Joe Black 12.45pm, 4.30pm, 8.15pm The Prince of Egypt 2.25pm, 4.40pm, 6.55pm, 9.15pm Rush Hour 7pm, 9.20pm The Siege 1.15pm, 3.50pm, 6.30pm, 9.15pm Star Trek: Insurrection 1pm, 3.30pm, 6.15pm

STREATHAM
ABC (0870-9020415) BR: Streatham Hill Antz 1.40pm Meet Joe Black 3.40pm, 7.20pm The Prince of Egypt 2.20pm, 4.40pm, 6.55pm, 9.15pm Star Trek: Insurrection 4pm, 6.20pm, 8.40pm

ODEON (08705 050007)
BR: Streatham Hill/Braxton/Clapham Common Enemy of the State 12.10pm, 2.55pm, 5.40pm, 8.25pm Little Voice 1.20pm, 3.40pm, 6pm, 8.20pm The Prince of Egypt 12.15pm, 2.20pm, 4.30pm, 6.40pm, 8.45pm The Siege 1.25pm, 3.30pm, 6pm, 8.40pm Star Trek: Insurrection 1.30pm, 3.50pm, 6.10pm, 8.30pm

STRAFORD
NEW STRATFORD PICTURE HOUSE (0181-555 3366) BR/• Stratford East Enemy of the State 2.30pm, 5.50pm, 8.35pm Little Voice 2.35pm, 4.45pm, 6.55pm, 8.30pm Meet Joe Black 1.30pm, 4.45pm, 8pm Psycho 4pm, 9pm Star Trek: Insurrection 4pm, 6.20pm, 8.40pm

TURNPIKE LANE
CORONET (0181-888 2519) • Turnpike Lane Enemy of the State 3pm, 5.45pm, 8.20pm Meet Joe Black 3.30pm, 7.25pm Psycho 6.10pm, 8.40pm Star Trek: Insurrection 4pm, 6.20pm

SURREY QUAYS
UCI (0950 888990) • Surrey Quays Baber Pig in the City 4.50pm, 8.30pm Meet Joe Black 1.30pm, 4.45pm, 8pm Psycho 4pm, 9pm Star Trek: Insurrection 4pm, 6.20pm, 8.40pm

WALTHAMSTOWN
ABC (0870-9020424) • Walthamstow Central Enemy of the State 3.10pm, 5.40pm, 8.30pm Meet Joe Black 2.10pm, 7.20pm The Siege 2pm, 5.10pm, 8.10pm Star Trek: Insurrection 2.30pm, 5.20pm

WALTON ON THAMES
THE SCREEN AT WALTON (01932-252825) BR: Walton on Thames Little Voice 3.30pm, 6.40pm, 8.50pm Meet Joe Black 3pm, 7.15pm

WELL HALL
CORONET (0181-850 3351) BR: Edham The Land Girls 6.10pm, 8.40pm Star Trek: Insurrection 4pm, 6.20pm

WILLESDEN
BELLE-VUE (0181-830 0822) • Willesden Green Kuch Kuch Hota Hai (phone for times) The Prince of Egypt 4.45pm Star Trek: Insurrection 6.45pm, 9.15pm

WIMBLEDON
ODEON (08705 050007) BR/• Wimbledon/• South Wimbledon Enemy of the State 2.30pm, 5.25pm, 8.20pm Little Voice 2pm, 4.15pm, 6.30pm, 8.45pm Meet Joe Black 12.20pm, 3.50pm, 7.30pm The Siege 2.45pm, 5.45pm, 8.30pm Star Trek: Insurrection 1.45pm, 4.05pm, 6.25pm, 8.45pm

WOODFORD
ABC (0181-989 3463) • South Woodford Enemy of the State 8pm Meet Joe Black 2.30pm, 7.30pm Psycho 2.20pm, 6.10pm, 8.30pm Star Trek: Insurrection 2.40pm, 5.40pm

WOOLWICH
CORONET (0181-854 5043) BR: Woolwich Arsenal Psycho 6.10pm, 8.40pm The Siege 3.35pm, 6pm, 8.30pm Star Trek: Insurrection 4pm

WOOD GREEN
NEW CURZON (0181-347 6664) • Turnpike Lane Kuch Kuch Hota Hai 2pm, 8.45pm Zakim 5.30pm

CINEMA
REPERTORY

LONDON
CINE LUMIERE Queensberry Place SW7 (0171-838 2144/2146) Sitcom (18) 7.30pm

THE LUX CINEMA Hoxton Square N1 (0171-684 0201) Berlin - Symphony of a Great City (U) 7pm (+ Short) Line in the Fast Lane (The No.11 Story) (NC) 9pm (+ Short)

NFT South Bank SE1 (0171-928 8322) The Horse Whisperer (PG) 2.30pm The American Soldier: Fashibler (NC) 6.15pm Key Largo (PG) 6.30pm La Chienne (NC) 7.30pm Men with Guns (NC) 9.30pm The Blister Tears of Clara Von Kant (18) 8.40pm

PRINCE CHARLES Leicester Place WC2 (0171-437 8181) The Big Lebowski (18) 1pm Snake Eyes (15) 3.45pm Rounders (15) 9pm

RIVERSIDE STUDIOS Cinema Crisp Road W6 (0171-420 0100) Zorro Effect (15) 6.30pm + The Last Days of Disco 8.50pm

WATRAMANS ARTS CENTRE High Street, Brentford (0181-568 1176) Out of Sight (15) 1.30pm, 7pm Little Voice (15) 5pm, 9pm

BRIGHTON
DUKE OF YORK'S CINEMA (01273-602503) The Fountainhead (PG) 2pm, 4pm, 6pm, 8.15pm, 10.15pm Meet Joe Black 12.30pm, 4pm, 7.30pm The Parent Trap 12.45pm, 3.15pm, 5.45pm, 8.15pm, 10.45pm Psycho 5.30pm, 8.00pm Rush Hour 8.50pm The Siege 12.45pm, 3.15pm, 5.50pm, 8.20pm Star Trek: Insurrection 1pm, 3.30pm, 6pm, 8.30pm

WATERSHEAD (011-925 3845) The Acid House (18) 6pm, 8.25pm Little Voice (15) 6.05pm, 8.35pm

CARDIFF
ARTS CENTRE (01222-395666) The Truman Show (PG) 6.15pm The Acid House (18) 8.15pm Dancing at Lughnasa (PG) 2.30pm, 7.30pm

CHICHESTER
NEW PRINCE FILM CENTRE (01243-786650) My Name Is Joe (15) 1.30pm, 6.30pm Deja Vu (15) 4pm Marquise (15) 9pm

IFSWICH
THEATRE (01473-215544) Henry Fool (18) 2.30pm, 6pm, 8.30pm Fire (15) 6pm, 8.15pm

LEICESTER
PHOENIX ARTS (0116-255 4854) The Land Girls (18) 6.05pm Rite de la Femme (15) 9pm

NORWICH
CINEMA CITY (01603-622047) Marquise (15) 3.50pm, 6.50pm The Truman Show (PG) 8.15pm

BATH
ABC CINEMA (01225-461730) Antz (PG): Meet Joe Black (12) Little Theatre (01225-466822) Baber Pig in the City (U): The Land Girls (12): Little Voice (15): The Mask of Zorro (PG)

ROBINS CINEMA (01225-461506) Enemy of the State (15): Lost in Space (PG): The Parent Trap (PG): The Land Girls (12): The Mask of Zorro (PG): The Siege (15): Star Trek: Insurrection (PG)

WARNER VILLAGE (01223-460442): Antz (PG): Asterix Conquers America (U): Baber Pig in the City (U): Enemy of the State (15): Little Voice (15): The Mask of Zorro (PG): Meet Joe Black (12): The Parent Trap (PG): The Prince of Egypt (U): Psycho (15): Rush Hour (15): Star Trek: Insurrection (PG): What Dreams May Come (15)

CARDIFF
ABC (0541-555178): Baber Pig in the City (U): Meet Joe Black (12): The Prince of Egypt (U): The Land Girls (12): Little Voice (15): Star Trek: Insurrection (PG)

CAPTOL ODEON (08705-050007): Baber Pig in the City (U): Enemy of the State (15): Meet Joe Black (12): Paradise Road (15): The Prince of Egypt (U): Psycho (15): The Siege (15): Star Trek: Insurrection (PG)

MONICO (01222-693426): Meet Joe Black (12): What Dreams May Come (15)

ODEON (08705-050007): Antz (PG): Little Voice (15): The Mask of Zorro (PG): The Parent Trap (PG)

UCI 12 (0950-888990): Antz (PG): Baber Pig in the City (U): Enemy of the State (15): The Land Girls (12): Little Voice (15): The Mask of Zorro (PG): Meet Joe Black (12): Mr. Magoo (PG): Mulan (U): Out of Sight (15): The Parent Trap (PG): The Prince of Egypt (U): Psycho (15): Rush Hour (15): Star Trek: Insurrection (PG): What Dreams May Come (15)

WALTHAMSTOWN
ABC (0870-9020424) • Walthamstow Central Enemy of the State 3.10pm, 5.40pm, 8.30pm Meet Joe Black 2.10pm, 7.20pm The Siege 2pm, 5.10pm, 8.10pm Star Trek: Insurrection 2.30pm, 5.20pm

WALTON ON THAMES
THE SCREEN AT WALTON (01932-252825) BR: Walton on Thames Little Voice 3.30pm, 6.40pm, 8.50pm Meet Joe Black 3pm, 7.15pm

WELL HALL
CORONET (0181-850 3351) BR: Edham The Land Girls 6.10pm, 8.40pm Star Trek: Insurrection 4pm, 6.20pm

THEATRE

WEST END

Ticket availability details are for today: times and prices for the week: running times include intervals. • Seats at all prices. • Seats at some prices. • Returns only. Mat: (5) Sun, (3) Tue, (4) Wed, (5) Thur, (6) Fri, (7) Sat

ALARMIS AND EXCLUSIONS Michael Frayn's new comedy about a dinner party which is interrupted by mysterious messages from Felicity Kendal and Josie Lawrence. Gielgud Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-494 5065) • Picc Circ. Mon-Sat 7.45pm, (U) 7pm, £19.50-£27.50 £12.50-£17.50 (restricted views), 130 mins.

AMADEUS David Suchet stars as Salieri to Peter Shaffer's acclaimed drama. Old Vic. The Cut. SE1 (0171-928 7616/420 0000) BR/• Watford, Mon-Sat 7.30pm, (U) 7.30pm, £7.50-£30, 180 mins.

ANNE Rags to riches story of the optimistic orphan, Victoria Palace Victoria Street, SW1 (0171-834 1317) BR/• Victoria, Tue-Sat 7.30pm, (U) 7.30pm, (U) 4pm, £7.50-£32.50, 165 mins.

ART Larry Lamb, Jack Dee, Tim Healy to Yasmina Reza's comedy about art and friendship. Wyndham's Charing Cross Road, WC2 (0171-369 1736/cc 0171-867 1111) • Leic Sq. Tue-Sat 8pm, (U) 3pm, (U) 7pm, £9.50-£27.50, 90 mins.

BEAUTY AND THE BEAST Lavish family musical based on Disney's high school romance of the fairytale fairy tale. Dominion, Tottenham Court Road, W1 (0171-656 1888) • Tot Ct Rd. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, (U) 7.30pm, £18.50-£35, 150 mins.

BLOOD BROTHERS Willy Russell's long-running Liverpool musical melodrama. Phoenix Charing Cross Road, WC2 (0171-369 1733) • Leic Sq/Tot Ct Rd. Mon-Sat 7.45pm, (U) 3pm, (U) 7pm, £11.50-£32.50, 165 mins.

BUDDY Musical biopic showing the brief life of Buddy Holly. Strand Aldwych, WC2 (0171-930 8800) • Covent Garden, Tue-Sat 8pm, Fri 5.30pm & 8.30pm, Sat 5pm & 8.30pm, mats (U) 4pm, £10-£27, half price Friday matinees, 160 mins.

CATS Lloyd Webber's musical version of T.S. Eliot's poems. New London Park Street, WC2 (0171-405 0072/cc 0171-404 0791) • Covent Garden/Holborn. Mon-Sat 7.45pm, (U) 7pm, £12.50-£35, 165 mins.

CHICAGO Maria Friedman and Peter Davison star in this hit Broadway musical about two murderous women and their nightclub act. Adelphi Malden Lane, WC2 (0171-344 0255) • Charing X. Mon-Sat 8pm, (U) 7.30pm, £16-£36 (incl booking fee), 130 mins.

THE COMPLETE WORKS OF WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE (ABRIDGED) Reduced Shakespeare Company fast-forwards through 37 plays. Criterion Piccadilly Circus, W1 (0171-369 1747) • Picc Circ. Wed-Sat 8pm, (U) 7pm, (U) 4pm, £6-£25, Thur mats - all seats £10, 120 mins.

FOR DOULTIE Philip Schofield talks to the audience in this new stage adaptation featuring Jim Broadbent. London Apollo Hamersmith Queen Caroline Street, W6 (0171-416 6022) • Hamersmith, Tue-Sat 7.30pm, (U) 7.30pm, £10-£32.50, 150 mins.

THE GLORY OF LIVING Drama set amongst the trailer parks of southern America from new playwright Rebecca Gilman. Royal Court Upstairs (at The Ambassadors) West Street, WC2 (0171-565 5000) • Leic Sq. Mon-Sat 8pm, ends 6 Feb, £10, concs £5.

GREASE Energetic stage version of the hit film about life in an American high school. The Earlham Street, WC2 (0171-494 5080) • Covent Garden. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, (U) 7.30pm, £10-£30, 150 mins.

AN IDEAL HUSBAND Christopher Cazenove and Susannah York in Peter Hall's acclaimed production of Wilde's comedy. Lyric Shafesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-344 5044) • Picc Circ. Mon-Sat 7.45pm, (U) 4pm, £8.50-£29.50, 165 mins.

AN INSPECTOR CALLS Stephen Daldry's widely-acclaimed production of JB Priestley's thriller. Garrick Charing Cross Road, WC2 (0171-5085) • Leic Sq. Mon-Fri 7.45pm, Sat 8.15pm, (U) 2.30pm, (U) 7pm, Upper circle £12.50-£29.50, 110 mins.

INTO THE WOODS Sondheim and Lapine's acclaimed musical based on fairytales. Dornier Warehouse, W1 (0171-494 5080) • Covent Garden. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, (U) 7.30pm, £15-£27.50.

THE INVENTION OF LOVE Tom Stoppard's play about the life of poet A.E. Housman, author of The Strand. W1 (0171-494 5080) • Haymarket Haymarket, SW1 (0171-390 8800) • Picc Circ. Tue-Sat 7.30pm, (U) 7.30pm, £10-£32.50.

JESUS, MY BOY Tom Conti stars in John Dowd's alternative Christmas show. Apollo Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-494 5070) • Picc Circ. Tue-Fri 8pm, Sat 8pm, (U) 3pm & 5pm, £5.50-£18.50.

KAFKA'S OCK Eric Sikes and Julia Mackenzie star in Alan Bennett's comedy about the world-famous writer. Piccadilly Denham Street, W1 (0171-369 1734) • Picc Circ. In rep today 3pm & 8pm, ends 26 Feb, £12-£30.

LITTLE MALCOLM AND HIS STRUGGLE AGAINST THE EUNUCHS Ewan McGregor stars as the revolutionary activist in David Hare's latest. Comedy Pantomime Street, SW1 (0171-369 1731) • Picc Circ. Tue-Sat 8pm, (U) 7.30pm, (U) 3pm, ends 13 Mar, £7-£27.50.

LORD OF THE FLIES Stage version of William Golding's tale of schoolboys living on a deserted island. Lyric Hamersmith King Street, W6 (0181-741 2311) • Hamersmith. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, mat today 1.30pm, ends 6 Feb, £5-£16.

THE MEMORY OF WATER Alison Steadman and Julia Sawalha star in this touching comedy about three sisters returning home for their mother's funeral. Vaudeville Strand, W1 (0171-336 9987) BR/• Charing X. Mon-Sat 8pm, (U) 7.30pm, £8-£27.50.

LES MISERABLES Musical dramatisation of Victor Hugo's masterpiece. Palace Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-434 0505) • Picc Circ. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, (U) 7.30pm, £7-£35, 195 mins.

MISS SAIGON Musical which re-creates the Modern Burlesque tragedy to Vietnam. Theatre Royal, Drury Lane Catherine Street, WC2 (0171-494 5060) • Covent Garden. Mon-Sat 7.45pm, (U) 7pm, £5.75-£35, 165 mins.

THE MOUSETRAP Agatha Christie's whodunnit. St Martin's West Street, WC2 (0171-838 1443) • Leic Sq. Mon-Sat 8pm, (U) 2.45pm, (U) 7pm, £10-£24.50, 135 mins.

OKLAHOMA! Matthew Lipman stars in the National's acclaimed production of Rodgers and Hammerstein's cowboy y farmland musical. Lyceum Wellington Street, WC2 (0171-606 3466/420 0000) • Charing X/Holborn. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, (U) 7.30pm, ends 26 June, £10-£35, 150 mins.

THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA Andrew Lloyd Webber's Gothic musical. Her Majesty's Haymarket, SW1 (0171-494 5400/cc 0171-344 4444) • Picc Circ. Mon-Sat 7.45pm, (U) 7.30pm, booking to June 26, £10-£35, 150 mins.

RENT Musical inspired by La Bohème and set in modern day New York. Shaftesbury Shaftesbury Avenue, WC2 (0171-369 1736/cc 0171-867 1111) • Leic Sq. Tue-Sat 8pm, (U) 3pm, (U) 7pm, £9.50-£27.50, 90 mins.

RICHARD III Robert Liddard stars as the historical villain. Savoy Strand, WC2 (0171-836 8888/cc 0171-369 1736/cc 0171-867 1111) • Leic Sq. Tue-Sat 7.30pm, (U) 7.30pm, £12.50-£32.50, 160 mins.

ROYAL NATIONAL THEATRE
• OLIVER: Peter Pan Stephen Oliver's music accompanies the tale of the Boy Who Would Not Grow Up with Michael Bryant as the story-teller. In rep tonight 7.15pm, ends 20 Feb.

COTTESLOE Guiding Star. Panto extravaganza about the fabled world. 21 & 22 Jan, 2.15pm & 7.15pm, ends 30 Jan, £3-£16, King Street (0117-987 7877)

CHICHESTER
CHICHESTER FESTIVAL THEATRE Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat. Tim Rice and Andrew Lloyd Webber's musical version of the Bible story. Mon-Thur 2.30pm & 7.30pm, Fri & Sat 5pm & 8pm, ends 23 Jan, £6.50, concs available, Oaklands Park (01243-781312)

GULDFORD
MUSICAL YVONNE ARNAUD THEATRE The Ministry of Blaisuits. Heart-heated satire about the prohibition of decadent sweets in post-war London. 21-23 Jan, 8pm, mat 23 Jan, 4pm, £8, concs available, Millbrook (01483-440000)

YVONNE ARNAUD THEATRE
Sleuth Peter Bowles and Michael Maloney star. Mon-Thur 7.45pm, Fri-Sat 8pm, mats Thur & Sat 2.30pm, ends 30 Jan, £13.50-£20.50, concs available, Millbrook (01483-440000)

HORNCHURCH
MUSICAL THEATRE Dick Whittington and His Kool Kool Kat. Favourite songs from the 1960s and 1970s accompany this intergalactic panto. 21 & 22 Jan, 2.15pm & 7.15pm, 23 Jan, 2.15pm & 7.15pm, £6.50-£13, Billet Lane (01708-443333)

IPSWICH
WOLFEY THEATRE The Norman Conquests: Table Manners Alan Ayckbourn's comedy about a planned dirty weekend which is foiled. 21 & 22 Jan, 7.45pm, 23 Jan, 2.30pm & 7.45pm, 24 Jan, 2.30pm & 7.45pm, £5-£13, Billet Lane (01708-443333)

KEYSTONE
HAYMAKER THEATRE Singin' in the Rain. High water mark of American musicals. Tue-Sat 7.30pm, mats Wed & Sat 2.30pm, ends 6 Feb, £7-£19.50, Belgrave Gate (0116-253 9797)

NORTHAMPTON
THE DERGATE GARDEN Night Out. Hilarious comedy by Dave Simpson. 21 Jan, 8pm, 22 & 23 Jan, 6pm & 9pm, £11-£14.50, Guildhall Road (01604-624811)

PETERBOROUGH
HOLLYWOOD THEATRE Dick Whittington and His Fabulous Cat. Thrilling adventure story. 21 & 22 Jan, 2.15pm, 23 Jan, 4.30pm & 7.30pm, 24 Jan, 3pm & 6pm, £5.75-£9.75, concs available, Embankment Road (01733-552435)

PLYMOUTH
THEATRE ROYAL Jack and the Beanstalk. Gladiatorial and Su Polard climb the giant beanstalk. 21-23 Jan, 2.30pm, 2.30pm & 7.30pm, 24 Jan, 3pm & 6pm, £5-£15.50, Royal Parade South (01752-267222)

PORT TALBOT
PRINCE ROYAL THEATRE Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs. Gladiatorial Fox stars as the baddie. Splendour in the Mirror. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, mats Sat 2.30pm, £5.75, concs £4, Civic Centre (01639-783214)

READING
THE MILL AT SONNING Ten Dezen Red Roses. Comic love story set in romantic Rome. Tue-Sat 8.15pm, mats Sat 2.15pm, ends 20 Feb, £21.95-£32.95 including dinner. Sonning Eye (0118-96

FRIDAY RADIO

PICK OF THE DAY

A RELATIVELY tactful medium, radio is well suited to stories of profound loss such as that of Gwyn Jones (right) - the Welsh rugby team captain left paralysed just over a year ago, 13 minutes into a match between Cardiff and Swansea. Presented by another former Welsh captain, Eddie Butler, *Road to Recovery* (11.30pm R4FM) captures the tremendous courage of the

25-year-old through his own stoical, step-by-step account of events and the admiring comments of friends and family. Sound Stories (11am R3) diligently collates the music inspired by the character of Scheherazade, who stayed off death for 1001 nights by spinning yarns for King Shahryar, starting with Ravel's *Asie*. DOMINIC CAVENTISH



search scientist discovered a gene that could determine a man or a woman's natural lifespan. With Amanda Root, Geoffrey Whitehead and John Strickland, Director Gordon House.

RADIO 4 (92.4-94.6MHz FM)
6.00 Today.
9.00 NEWS: Desert Island Discs.
9.45 Serials: *Isis*.
10.00 NEWS: Woman's Hour.
11.00 NEWS: Little and Large.
11.30 The Oldest Member.
12.00 NEWS: You and Yours.
12.57 Weather.
1.00 The World at One.
1.30 Puzzle Panel.
2.00 NEWS: The Archers.
2.15 Afternoon Play: *Spirits* (R).
3.00 NEWS: *Loggish* On.
3.30 The Vale (R).
3.45 This Scattered Isle (R).
4.00 NEWS: Open Book.
4.30 The Message.
5.00 PM.
5.57 Weather.
6.00 Six O'Clock News.
6.30 The Ghost of Number Ten.
7.00 NEWS: The Archers.
7.15 Front Row: Mark Lawson with the arts programme.
7.45 Lady Susan, Drama: Lady Susan by Jane Austen, adapted by Lavinia Murray. With Harriet Walter and Maggie Stead. Final part.
8.00 NEWS: Any Questions?
Jonathan Dimbleby is joined in Mallock, Derby, by panellists including Jackie Ballard MP, David Blunkett, Secretary of State for Education; and Will Self, author and columnist.
8.45 Letter from America.
Alastair Cooke with another slice of Americana.
9.00 NEWS: The Friday Play: 625Y. Wally K Daly's new play intriguingly imagines what would happen if a re-

RADIO 5 LIVE (89.3, 90.8kHz MW)
6.00 Breakfast.
9.00 Nicky Campbell.
12.00 The Midday News.
1.00 Up and Go: Ian Glover and the 5 Live team present live reports from the big news and sports events of the day. Including Moneycheck, and F1's quest in conversation.
4.00 Drive.
7.00 News Extra.
7.30 Alan Green's Sportsnight. Alan Green and his studio guests discuss the week's sporting issues. Plus news of the night's Nationwide League action and a preview of the weekend, including England's latest one-day game in the triangular series.
10.00 Late Night Live. Insight and comment on the day's big issues with Brian Hayes. Including *Parliament*, 10.30 Sport. 11.00 News. 11.15 The Financial World Tonight.
1.00 Up and Go.
5.00 - 6.00 Morning Reports.
CLASSIC FM (100.1-101.9MHz FM)
6.00 Michael Mappin. 8.00 Henry Kelly. 12.00 Requests. 2.00 Concert. 3.00 Jamie Cullum. 6.30 Newsnight. 7.00 Smooth Classics at Seven. 9.00 Evening Concert. 11.00 Alan Martin. 2.00 Concerto. 3.00 - 6.00 Mark Griffiths.

VIRGIN RADIO (12.5, 137-126.0kHz MW 105.8MHz FM)
6.30 Chris Evans. 9.30 Mark Forrester. 1.00 Nick Abbott. 4.00 Harriet Scott. 7.00 Wheels of Steel. 11.00 Janey Lee Grace. 2.00 - 6.00 Steve Power.
WORLD SERVICE RADIO (88.4kHz LW)
1.00 The World Today. 1.30 Meridian (Books). 2.00 The World Today. 2.30 People and Politics. 3.00 The World Today. 3.20 Sports Roundup. 3.30 World Business Report. 3.45 Insight. 4.00 The World Today. 4.30 Weekend. 5.00 The World Today. 5.30 - 6.00 My Century.

TALK RADIO
6.00 David Banks and Nick Ferrari. 9.00 Scott Chisholm. 1.00 Lorraine Kelly. 2.00 Anna Raeburn. 3.00 OK to Talk. 5.00 The Sports Zone. 8.00 James Whaley. 10.00 Dave Barrett's Phone-In with the Midnight Psychic. 2.00 - 8.00 Mike Dickinson.

EVENTS

RADIO 1 (97.6-98.9MHz FM)
6.30 Zoe Ball. 9.00 Simon Mayo. 12.00 Kevin Greening. 2.00 Mark Radcliffe. 4.00 Chris Moyles. 5.45 Newsbeat. 6.00 Pete Tong's Essential Selection. 9.00 Judge Jules. 11.00 Westwood - Radio 1 Rap Show. 2.00 Fabio and Grooverider. 4.00 - 7.00 Emma B.

RADIO 2 (88-90.2MHz FM)
6.00 Sarah Kennedy. 7.30 Wake Up to Wogan. 9.30 Ken Bruce. 12.00 Jimmy Young. 2.00 Ed Stewart. 5.05 Des Lynam. 7.00 A Very British Story. 7.30 Friday Night is Music Night. 9.35 Frankenstein. 9.30 Listen to the Band. 10.00 David Jacobs. 10.30 Sheridan Morley. 12.00 Lynn Parsons. 4.00 - 6.00 Lata Shamsa.

RADIO 3 (90.2-92.4MHz FM)
6.00 On Air.
9.00 Masterworks.
10.30 Artist of the Week.
11.00 Sound Stories. See *Pick of the Day*.

12.00 Composer of the Week: Purcell. With Robert King. 5. '1693-1695: To Death in D. 2232: The Blessed Virgin's Expostulation. 2196: Incidental music 'Abdelaziz'. Music for the Funeral of Queen Mary. 2360.

1.00 Lunchtime Concert. 2.00 The BBC Orchestra. 4.00 Music Restored. 4.45 Music Machine. (R). 5.00 In Tune.

7.45 Performance on 3. Live from Greyfriars Kirky, Edinburgh, introduced by Geoffrey Baskerville. Conductor Yoram Talmi. Haydn: Symphony No 45 in F sharp minor (Farewell). 8.45 News from North Britain. Five new stories from Scotland. 2: Mystic Lotus, by Ellen Galford. Great-uncle Hugh goes to Blackpool and returns with a new wife. Her exuberant taste in clothes and exotic make-up make her a clear winner in her new family's 'black sheep Olympics'. Reader Maureen Beattie.

8.35 Concert, part 2. Bruckner: Symphony No 4 in E flat (Romantic). 9.45 Postscript. 5: The Monet Market. Monet remains one of the most bankable of all artists, with originals selling for millions of pounds and reproductions decorating everything from mouse mats to umbrellas. With

actualities from Christie's most recent auction of Monet paintings and a browse through the Royal Academy's shop, this programme reflects on changes in the market for Monet from his day to ours. With excerpts from Monet's letters read by Paul Scofield. 10.00 Hear and Now. Following closely the arrival of the new year is the Park Lane Group's annual series of concerts featuring young artists playing contemporary music, traditionally staged in the Purcell Room on London's South Bank during the first week of January. Previous programmes reveal a veritable who's who of musical life - and this year's line-up ranges from solo piano via percussion and harp to wind quintet. Verity Sharp presents highlights from the ten concerts, including performances by Pedro Carneiro (percussion), the Marais Ensemble, Chamber Domains and the Quartet Saxophone Quartet.

11.30 Jazz Century. Russell Davies presents a 52-part history of jazz, from its earliest stirrings until the millennium. 12.00 Composer of the Week: Rimsky-Korsakov. Piers Burton-Page introduces Rimsky-Korsakov's final operatic work, *Suite Legend of the Invisible City of Kitezh*. BBC PO/Edward Downes. O vain illusion of glory and grandeur (Legend of the Invisible City of Kitezh). Boris Christoff (bass), Philharmonie/Wilhelm Schuster. Suite The Golden Cockerel. Russian NO/Mikhail Pletnev. 1.00 - 6.00 Through the Night.

SATELLITE AND CABLE

PICK OF THE DAY

NOBODY COULD ever accuse Beavis and Butt-head, the oilskin cartoon teenagers, of refinement. But for all their vulgarity, the young MTV headbangers are oddly compelling characters - you keep watching if only to see what new level of depravity they will sink to next. In Mike Judge's suitably loud feature-film, Beavis and Butt-head Do America (9pm Sky Moviemax), slumming for the first time on satellite tonight,

an awesome weapon falls into the hands of the gruesome twosome. All the way from child star to grand old man, Steve Wonder has more or less managed to hold onto his street cred (we'll draw a discreet veil over 'Ebony and Ivory'). His varied career - which encompasses such classics as 'Sir Duke' and 'Masterblaster' - is reviewed in *The Greatest Hits of...* (1pm VH-1).



JAMES RAMPTON

SKY ONE
2.00 Count Duckula (4733). 2.30 Chris Evans (8262). 3.30 Hollywood Squares (4132). 4.00 Sally Jessy Raphael (2452). 4.30 Oprah Winfrey (5754). 11.00 Gailly (3990). 12.00 Jerry Jones (2567). 1.00 Mad about You (4000). 1.30 Jeopardy! (4203). 2.00 Sally Jessy Raphael (8023). 3.00 Jerry Jones (7702). 4.00 Gailly (5523). 5.00 Star Trek: Deep Space Nine (327). 6.00 Married with Children (573). 6.30 Friends (4483). 7.00 The Simpsons (4700). 7.30 The Simpsons (3857). 8.00 Beat the Crusher (5734). 9.00 UFOs Above and Beyond (6799). 10.00 Cops (8737). 11.00 Friends (5726). 11.30 Star Trek: Deep Space Nine (2326). 12.30 Highlander (4589). 1.30 - 2.00 Long Play (56216).

SKY SPORTS 1
6.30 Future in Sport (5102). 7.00 Sky Sports Centre (594953). 7.35 WWF Superstars (24445). 8.35 Sports Centre (493664). 8.30 Racing News (4324). 9.00 Aerobics (8055). 9.30 You're on Sky Sports (3448). 10.00 What a Weekend (5237). 10.30 Trans World Sport (4949). 11.30 European Tour Golf (59203). 2.30 on the Road (203506). 2.30 Beyond 2000 (26353). 3.00 Outback Adventure (100396). 3.30 Uncharted Africa (189803). 4.00 Roller Coaster (501474). 10.00 Bani (507287). 11.00 Weapons of War (103777). 12.00 Bodyguards (555149). 1.00 History Turning Points (523769). 1.30 Flightline (522258). 2.00 Close.

DISCOVERY CHANNEL
4.00 Rex Hunt (53395). 4.30 Walker's World (162780). 5.00 Flightline (100584). 5.30 History's Turning Points (544483). 6.00 Animal Doctor (184938). 6.30 Eye on the Road (203506). 7.30 Beyond 2000 (26353). 8.00 Outback Adventure (100396). 8.30 Uncharted Africa (189803). 9.00 Roller Coaster (501474). 10.00 Bani (507287). 11.00 Weapons of War (103777). 12.00 Bodyguards (555149). 1.00 History Turning Points (523769). 1.30 Flightline (522258). 2.00 Close.

SKY SPORTS 2
7.00 Aerobics (493674). 7.30 Sports Centre (592358). 7.45 Racing News (525249). 8.35 What a Weekend (5237). 9.30 Sports Centre (590551). 10.00 Night Lines (454938). 10.30 Ice Hockey (504483). 12.30 Rugby (536877). 1.30 Night Lines (537706). 2.30 Survival (487884). 3.00 Ice Hockey (214532). 5.30 World Sport (481700). 6.00 MotoGP (48263). 6.30 H2O (490583). 7.00 Friday Night Football (789344). 10.00 Ford Golf USA (52033). 12.00 Cricket South Africa vs West Indies (607830). 2.00 Sports Centre (438565). 3.00 H2O (107033). 3.30 - 2.00 Cricket (210785).

SKY SPORTS 3
6.30 Future in Sport (5102). 7.00 Sky Sports Centre (594953). 7.35 WWF Superstars (24445). 8.35 Sports Centre (493664). 8.30 Racing News (4324). 9.00 Aerobics (8055). 9.30 You're on Sky Sports (3448). 10.00 What a Weekend (5237). 10.30 Trans World Sport (4949). 11.30 European Tour Golf (59203). 2.30 on the Road (203506). 2.30 Beyond 2000 (26353). 3.00 Outback Adventure (100396). 3.30 Uncharted Africa (189803). 4.00 Roller Coaster (501474). 10.00 Bani (507287). 11.00 Weapons of War (103777). 12.00 Bodyguards (555149). 1.00 History Turning Points (523769). 1.30 Flightline (522258). 2.00 Close.

EUROSPORT
7.30 Car on Ice (7700). 8.00 Sid Jumping (4448). 8.30 Luge (4957). 9.00 Alpine Skiing (8007). 10.00 Alpine Skiing (2506). 11.30 Alpine Skiing (5522). 12.30 Bani (7887). 2.00 Tennis (544578). 6.30 Football: Glad Cup Feyenoord vs Dortmund (5783). 8.30 Alpine Skiing (2551). 9.00

Boxing (4736). 10.00 Tennis (4048). 11.00 Playlife (1629). 11.30 Yoz Action (83754). 12.30 Close.
UK GOLD
7.00 Crossroads (133375). 7.30 Neighbours (591754). 7.55 EastEnders (167963). 8.30 The Bill (610454). 9.00 The Bill (87176). 9.30 The House of David (214059). 10.30 Rhoda (507700). 11.00 Dallas (585735). 11.55 Neighbours (583448). 12.25 EastEnders (728087). 1.00 Juliet Bravo (480643). 2.00 Dallas (720395). 2.55 The Bill (160613). 3.25 The Bill (453293). 3.55 EastEnders (167963). 4.30 Rhoda (622280). 5.00 AJ Crockett Great and Small (182377). 5.00 Dynasty (457894). 7.00 20/20: Children (444008). 7.40 It Ain't Half Hot, Mum (543754). 8.20 The Yes, Minister (333776). 9.00 The Thin Blue Line (444026). 9.40 Knowing Me, Knowing You, with Alan Partridge (595984). 10.20 Ruby Wax Meets... Goldie Hawn (595983). 11.00 The Bill (534825). 11.30 The Bill (87176). 12.30 Dr Who Omnibus (585476). 1.00 Old Grey Whistle Test (182323). 3.00 - 2.00 Shopping (236412).

LIVING
6.00 Tiny and Crew (494518). 6.30 Phobos (283628). 6.30 Johnson (474394). 6.45 Tiny Tales (1742613). 6.50 Puke Out Shorts (752003). 7.00 Partridge (572448). 7.05 Bubblegum (58229). 7.30 Calico (577822). 7.35 Bug Alert (582658). 7.55 Partridge (830674). 8.00

Barney (581803). 8.30 Tiny Tales (701674). 8.35 Tiny and Crew (494518). 8.50 Partridge (577822). 9.00 Diet Show (2504754). 9.30 Roseanne Show (343824). 10.00 Jerry Springer (536087). 10.50 Maury Povich (503754). 11.00 Living Issues (569439). 12.00 Animal Rescue (748526). 12.40 Rescue 911 (13226448). 1.00 Special Forces (505007). 1.40 Beyond Belief (752658). 2.00 LA Law (315453). 2.30 Living Room (7021464). 4.00 Michael Cole (425087). 4.50 Robinson (404981). 5.40 Ready, Steady, Cook (759754). 6.45 Jerry Springer (574883). 7.05 Rescue 911 (473763). 7.35 Animal Rescue (504763). 8.00 Murder Call (705984). 8.00 Film: Dying to Love You (893). 7.00 Sex Life Under Love (55894). 12.00 Close.

TNT
9.00 WCW Nitro on TNT (262446). 11.35 WCW Thursday (836707). 11.45 Brotherly Love (184478). 1.35 The Vanishing Act (1957). 1.40 Close.

PARAMOUNT COMEDY CHANNEL
7.00 Cheesecake (542). 7.30 Grace Under Fire (583). 8.00 Roseanne (583). 8.30 Neveada (523). 9.00 Cylind (52358). 9.30 Vic Reaver (57984). 10.20 Jack Dee (20373). 11.30 Larry Sanders (4903). 12.00 David Letterman (2856). 1.00 Taxi (345). 1.30 The Critic (4287). 2.00 Dr Katz (2965). 2.30 Soap (57912). 3.00 Wings (5014). 3.30 Nightstand (24052). 4.00 Close.

GRANDIA PLUS
6.00 Within These Walls (582803). 7.00 On the Bus (59322). 7.30 Doctor in the House (179803). 8.00 That's My Boy (44178). 8.30 Up the Garden Path (540445). 9.00 Coronation Street (543402). 9.30 Emmerdale (508613). 10.00 Emmerdale (584472). 11.00 Hawaii Five-O (544448). 12.00 Coronation Street (544281). 12.30 Emmerdale (582803). 1.00 Nearest and Dearest (555144). 1.30 Agony (507003). 2.00 Nearest and Dearest (555144). 3.00 Love Boat (70459). 4.00 The Saint (73025). 5.00 Hawaii Five-O (554803). 6.00 Emmerdale (527569). 6.30 Coronation Street (527810). 7.00 Mission: Impossible (543442). 7.30 The Love Boat (554590). 8.00 Coronation Street (722029). 9.30 The Coronation Street (717583). 10.00 The Jokers Wild (545283). 10.30 Hogan's Heroes (545358). 11.00 As Granada Men & Women Unit 200m (418064). 12.00 Close.

INDEPENDENT PURSUITS

CHESS

JON SPEELMAN

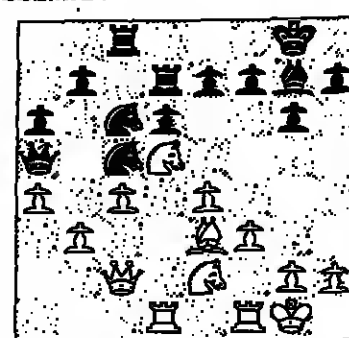
AS MENTIONED briefly on Wednesday, following just two rounds of play on Saturday and Sunday the players at Wijk aan Zee had a rest day. Rather odd, you may think, but in fact this "rest" consisted of 13 five-minute games in the annual Wijk aan Zee blitz tournament.

Everybody took part apart from Shirov, who withdrew at the last moment and was replaced by Manuel Bosboom - a manic attacking player very dangerous both to his opponents and himself. Indeed it was Bosboom who scored the only victory against the runaway tournament winner, Gary Kasparov.

Kasparov clearly means business at Wijk. He dominated the blitz tournament, winning nine of the 13 games to take the first prize of 5,000 guilders with a round to spare, ending up on 10.5/13, clear of Anand and Ivanchuk 9, Kramnik 8.5, Ivan Sokolov 8, Svidler and Topalov 6.5, Kasimdzhanov 6, Piket and Bosboom 5.5, Timman 5, Van Wely 4.5, Reinderman 3.5 and Yermolinsky just 3.

In this first-round game, Kasimdzhanov set up a reasonable position with the so-called Maroczy hind pawn structure characterised by the e4 and c4 pawns against Black's fianchettoed king's bishop. But Kasparov was very active and the attempt to punish him with 19 b4? in the diagram - rather than 19 Rb1 or 19 Qh1, say - misfired badly. Kasimdzhanov's idea was to win the exchange after 20...Nc6 21 Qxa5 Nxa5 22 Nb6. This isn't too clear but Kasparov's queen sacrifice 20...Nxd5! was even better.

Kasparov emerged with approximate material equality - a rook, a minor piece and a pawn for the queen. But here both of his minor pieces, especially the inviolable knight on c5, were better than White's knight, he had play against



White's weakened queenside pawns, his own pawn structure was excellent, and above all, his king was quite safe. In the absence of targets a queen is pretty useless and Kasimdzhanov was dispatched effortlessly.

White: Rastam Kasimdzhanov
Black: Gary Kasparov
Wijk aan Zee Blitz 1999
Sicilian 4 Qxd4

1 e4 c5 23 Kxf1 Rxd7
2 Nf3 d6 24 Nf4 e6
3 d4 cxd4 25 g3 h5
4 Qxd4 a6 26 Ng2 Bd4
5 c4 Nc6 27 Rd1 e5
6 Qd2 g8 28 Qb4 Rb6
7 Nc3 Bb6 29 a5 Rxc7
8 Qc2 Bg7 30 Ke2 Ne6
9 Bc3 Nf6 31 Rcl b5
10 Be2 0-0 32 axb6 Rxb6
11 0-0 Bg4 33 Qa4 Kg7
12 Rad1 Nd7 34 Ne3 Bxe3
13 b3 Rf8 35 Kxe3 Nc5
14 a4 Qa5 36 Qa5 Rb3+
15 Nd4 Bxe2 37 Ke2 Rb7
16 Ndx2 Ne5 38 Rcd2 Ne6
17 Rf8 Rf8 39 Rd2 Nd4+
18 Nd5 Rd7 40 Rxd4 exd4
(see diagram) 41 Qxa6 Re3+
19 b4? Nxb4 42 Kf1 Rb1+
20 Qd2 Nxd5! 43 Kg2 Rb2+
21 Qxa5 Nxe3 44 Kf3 Re2
22 Rb1 Nxf1 45 Kh4 Kh6 0-1

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BRIDGE

ALAN HIRON

WEST MADE only one mistake on this deal (an expensive one). The oddity was that there were two quite distinct reasons for him to have avoided his error - either of which should have been enough on its own...

South opened 1 no-trumps (12-14 points) and North explored with a Stayman Two Clubs. On hearing his partner's denial of Two Diamonds, he went on to the no-trump game and West led 5 (fourth highest) against 3 no-trumps. East won with his ace and returned the queen. West looked at this for some while - should he overtake and clear the suit? Eventually he decided against doing so; he reasoned that (a) this might give declarer his ninth trick and (b) his partner might have a third diamond anyhow, when the contract would go two off. Now, without the overtake, it was easy for declarer to drive out 4 A and land his contract.

There were, as I said, two strong counter-arguments to West's reasoning. First, he had clearly forgotten the bidding! Remember, South (unless he was in the habit of ad-libbing with his Stayman

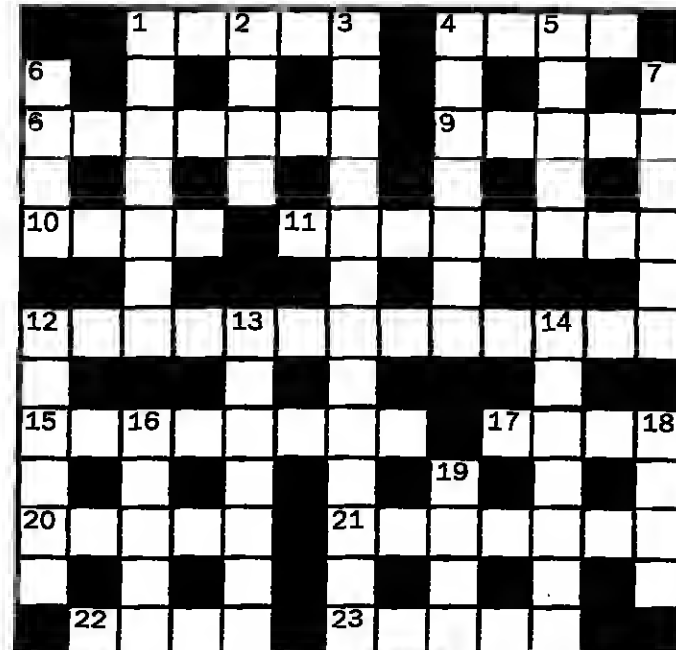
Love all; dealer South

North
♦A Q 5
♥K J 9 7
♦10 3
♣Q J 9 5
West
♦9 7 3
♥10 4 2
♦K 9 8 5 2
♣A 7
East
♦10 8 6 4
♥A 5 3
♦K 5
♣8 6 4 2
South
♦K J 2
♥A Q 6
♦J 7 6 4
♣K 10 3

responses) had denied a four-card major. This meant that he could make at most seven tricks in the major suits and one diamond would not be enough. Secondly, if East had indeed started with 4 A, surely he would have played his queen on the first round? This would have been a completely standard play, designed to make it difficult, if not impossible, for declarer to hold up with 4 Kxx.

CONCISE CROSSWORD

No. 3826 Friday 22 January



ACROSS

- 1 Sound made by horse (5)
- 2 Chinese dynasty (4)
- 3 Shoe repairer (7)
- 4 Galley (5)
- 5 Cereal (4)
- 6 Northern species of ruminant (8)
- 7 Trapped (6)
- 8 Devastated (6-7)
- 9 Shapeless (8)
- 10 Drawback (4)
- 11 Respite (3-2)
- 12 Centre of cell (7)
- 13 Liberate (4)
- 14 British private soldier (5)

DOWN

- 1 Verdi opera (7)
- 2 Lazy (4)
- 3 Conker (5-8)
- 4 Reddish-purple (7)
- 5 Relative (5)
- 6 Mark left by wound (4)
- 7 Trapped (6)
- 8 Perplex (6)
- 9 Astronomical event (7)
- 10 Leather works (7)
- 11 Moving arm (5)
- 12 Sudden wind (4)
- 13 Worthless people (4)

Solution to yesterday's Concise Crossword:

ACROSS: 1 Countess, 5 Sinc (Countryside), 9 Libya, 10 Applied, 11 Snail's pace, 14 Undergraduate, 16 Discourage, 20 Martini, 21 Shog, 22 Name, 23 Meetings. DOWN: 1 Colour, 2 Upstroke, 3 Trail, 4 Sharp practice, 6 Libs, 7 Eddy, 8 Spiced, 12 Vacation, 13 Generous, 15 Raisin, 17 Upright, 18 Oment, 19 Tim.

REGIONAL TELEVISION VARIATIONS

BBC 1 N IRELAND
As BBC1 LONDON & SE except:
6.30 Newsline 6.30 (R3).

BBC 1 SCOTLAND
As BBC1 LONDON & SE except:
2.55 Luch is Farn (Mouse and Mole) (597432). 3.00 Oran Ogan Rannan (Song and Rhyme) (597432). 3.30 Pagan Post (Postman Pat) (490494). 6.00 News (553). 6.30 Reporting Scotland. 12.40 News (553). 10.25 Friday Sportsman (174453). 10.55 Film: Poltergeist: An American suburban family plays host to malevolent visitors from the spirit world. Steven Spielberg's scary ghost story (he produced, and co-wrote the script) strikes a neat balance between playful humour and terrifying effects - expertly marshalled by school-horror director Tobe Hooper, whose subsequent career went down the tubes. With Craig T. Nelson, JoBeth Williams, Beatrice Straight, Dominique Dunne and Heather O'Rourke (788269). 12.40 The Stand-Up Show (561255). 1.10 The Big End (738810). 1.40 Jools BBC News 24 (82500385).

BBC1 WALES
As BBC1 LONDON & SE except:
6.30 Wales Today (603).

ANGLIA
As Carlton except: 12.20 Anglia News (578735). 1.00 Save Your Bacon (8374). 3.20 Anglia News and Weather (2786377). 5.40 Shortland Street (595782). 6.00 Home and Away (595404). 6.25 Anglia News (532700). 10.30 Anglia News and Weather (730618). 12.40 Pirata TV (761588). 1.05 Film: The World is Full of Married Men. Ad man Anthony Franciosa cheats on his wife. She plays the same game, lavishly jettisoning sex scenes with woe-filled performances. Jackie Collins wrote the book and the screenplay Men (823149). 2.40 The Haunted Fish-tank (553558). 3.35 New Baywatch (438762). 4.05 Trisha (407274). 5.00 Coronation Street (40830).

CENTRAL
As Carlton except: 12.20 Central News and Weather (578735). 1.00 Wish You Were Here...? (8374). 3.20 Central News (2786377). 5.40 Shortland Street (595782). 6.00 News and Weather (433163). 6.00 Home and Away (595404). 6.25 Central News and Weather (532700). 10.30 Central News and Weather (730618). 12.40 Jobindar (595404). 5.20 Asian Eye (494210).

MTV WALES
As Carlton except: 12.20 This Morning (2945919). 12.45 MTV News and Weather (512057). 1.00 Wish You Were Here...? (8374). 3.20 MTV News (2786377). 5.40 A Country Practice (595404). 6.00 Home and Away (595404). 6.25 Wales Tonight (532700). 10.30 MTV News (730618). 12.40 You Can Work It Out (761588). 1.05 Film: The World is Full of Married Men (823149). 2.40 The Haunted Fish-tank (553558). 3.35 New Baywatch (438762). 4.05 Trisha (407274). 5.00 Coronation Street (40830).

MTV WEST
As MTV WALES except: 1.00 Shortland Street (595782). 6.25 MTV West Weather (278772). 6.30 The West Tonight (241). 12.40 Pirata TV (761588). 5.30 To Be Announced (50858).

MERIDIAN
As Carlton except: 10.30 This Morning (2945919). 12.45 Meridian News and Weather (512057). 1.00 Shortland Street (595782). 3.20 Meridian News and Weather (2786377). 5.40 Home and Away (595782). 6.00 The Listings (588222). 6.40 News (1195).

10.30 Meridian News and Weather (730618). 12.40 Pirata TV (761588). 1.05 Film: The World is Full of Married Men (823149). 2.40 The Haunted Fish-tank (553558). 3.35 New Baywatch (438762). 4.05 Trisha (407274). 5.00 Coronation Street (40830).

FRIDAY TELEVISION

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